



Chickasaw Graduates Section Inside!

Upcoming Events

**Chickasaw Youth
Cultural Workshop**
June 8-10, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Arts and Humanities, Ada,
Okla.
(580) 272-5520

**International Archives
Day**
June 9
Chickasaw Cultural Center,
Sulphur, Okla.
(580) 622-7130

Gospel Singing
June 11, 4-10 p.m.
Boggy Depot, Atoka, Okla.
(580) 371-9835

Paint with Mom
June 11, 10 a.m.-Noon
and 1-3 p.m.
Arts and Humanities, Ada,
Okla. and ARTesian Gallery &
Studios, Sulphur, Okla.
(580) 272-5520

Gourdget Class
June 14, 6:30-8 p.m.
Arts and Humanities, Ada,
Okla.
(580) 272-5520

**Art Integration Teacher
Workshop**
June 15-16, 9 a.m.-4:30
p.m.
Arts and Humanities, Ada,
Okla.
(580) 272-5520

**Movie Night at the
Museums**
June 17, 8:30 p.m.
Chickasaw National Capitol,
Tishomingo, Okla.
(580) 371-9835

Pinch Pots Class
June 18, 1-3 p.m.
Chickasaw Council House
Museum, Tishomingo, Okla.
(580) 371-3351

Father's Honor Day
June 18-19
Chickasaw Cultural Center,
Sulphur, Okla.
(580) 622-7130

**First Day of Summer
Celebration**
June 20
Chickasaw Cultural Center,
Sulphur, Okla.
(580) 622-7130



Chickasaw Times



Online

Bank2 closing cost vouchers now available to Chickasaw citizens

OKLAHOMA CITY – Chickasaw citizens financing the purchase of a home or refinancing a home through Bank2 can receive \$1,000 vouchers toward closing costs on qualifying home loans. The offer is good through August 31.

Bank2, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Chickasaw Nation, is one of the top sources of Native American home loans across the United States.

Governor Bill Anoatubby said this Bank2 initiative continued the tribe's practice of leveraging industry experience to offer citizens enhanced services and opportunities.

"Since opening in 2002, Bank2 has grown to be a trusted source of Native American home loans throughout the United States," Gov. Anoatubby said. "We developed this unique program as part of our effort to help make home loans more accessible for Chickasaw citizens."

With closing costs in Oklahoma typically amounting to several thousand dollars, the vouchers lessen out-of-pocket costs and reduce stress on families during the home purchase process.

"Bank2 exists to help Chickasaw citizens build better lives, with our commitment to that mission driving our operations daily," Bank2 president Ross Hill said. "We are appreciative of the support of Governor Anoatubby as we use this voucher program to serve Chickasaw citizens in

their home-financing journey."

Mr. Hill said Bank2's online banking tools and caring, knowledgeable employees make the application process and home-financing experience easy for anyone.

"We want citizens to know that the knowledgeable employees of Bank2 are committed to the entire home finance process," he said.

The \$1,000 voucher is applied to closing costs at the time of loan closing with Bank2. The voucher can be used at the time of closing exclusively to pay home loan closing fees such as home inspections, property appraisals, lender and title fees.

Terms and conditions apply. Full details about the \$1,000 home loan closing cost voucher can be found at www.bank2cc.com or by calling (877) 409-2265. This special offer for Chickasaw citizens applies only to applications with Bank2 dated from May 1 through August 31, 2016 and close within 90 days of application date. Bank2's underwriting standards for approval apply. The voucher has no cash value outside of the transaction with Bank2. Any unused amount of the voucher will be cancelled at closing and will not be remitted or otherwise available to the borrower for any other purpose.

CONTRIBUTED BY Gene Lehmann, Media Relations.

Southeastern Art Show and Market artists' applications due June 17

TISHOMINGO, Okla. - The application deadline for the 2016 Chickasaw Nation Southeastern Art Show and Market (SEASAM) in Tishomingo is drawing near.

Deadline for native artists in the adult category to submit an application for the annual show is June 17. Youth artists must apply by September 2.

More than \$80,000 in prize money will be awarded. Awards include a \$7,000 cash prize for "Best In Show" winner in the adult divisions, and \$1,000 cash prize for "Best of Show" for youth winners.

Adults and youth from any federally-recognized Southeastern and Woodland tribe are encouraged to enter the competition in two-dimensional, three-dimensional or cultural art categories.

Artists may enter up to two works per category, up to a total of four entries.

The youth artist competition is open to students 14 -17 years old enrolled in a public, private or home school high school, as of Sept. 1, 2016.

Hosted by the Chickasaw Nation during the tribe's 56th Annual Meeting and 28th Chickasaw Festival, the juried art competition and market will be September 30-October 1 on the historic capitol grounds in Tishomingo.

Application forms, entry rules and additional information can be found on the Chickasaw Nation website at www.chickasaw.net/seasam or by contacting Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities at (580) 272-5520 or emailing artistinfo@chickasaw.net.

Thelma 'Chincie' Ross

Beloved Chickasaw elder, activist passes away at 98

TUTTLE, Okla. - A Chickasaw woman beloved by citizens in this central Oklahoma community for more than 60 years passed away Monday, May 16.

Thelma "Chincie" Ross passed peacefully at her Tuttle home. She was 98.

Born Sept. 9, 1917, near Tuttle to Turner and Susan Cochran, Mrs. Ross was inducted into the Chickasaw Hall of Fame in 2015.

Governor Bill Anoatubby said Mrs. Ross epitomized the Chickasaw spirit.

"Chincie Ross had an uncommon passion for life that enabled her to accomplish great things," Gov. Anoatubby said. "Her indomitable spirit, infectious sense of humor and commitment to her family, community and tribe are an inspiration to all who knew her."

Chincie, the nickname bestowed on her by the father she adored, is an indigenous word for "beautiful flower."

Her father shared Chickasaw culture, tradition and heritage with his young daughter. She proudly proclaimed her Native American heritage the remainder of her life. In 2013, the city of Tuttle hon-



THELMA 'CHINCIE' ROSS

ored her by dedicating the Thelma "Chincie" Ross Meeting Room after constructing a new city hall downtown.

A vital member of the Tuttle community, Mrs. Ross served as the town's first librarian, historian and voter registrar and contributed to countless city projects.

In 2009, Mrs. Ross was honored during Tuttle High School's 100th anniversary. She served as parade marshal. Local citizens and elect-

Gov. Anoatubby honored by OSU



Governor Bill Anoatubby is presented an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by Oklahoma State University President Burns Hargis during May 7 OSU commencement. Gov. Anoatubby received the honor prior to delivering the commencement address to this year's OSU graduating class. Gov. Anoatubby spoke on the importance of forging mutually-beneficial partnerships, remaining open to new opportunities and following a path of servant leadership.

Chickasaw Nation photo by Marcy Gary

Veterans' Conference June 27 at Thackerville

THACKERVILLE, Okla. - Chickasaw veterans are invited to the second Chickasaw Veterans Conference, Monday, June 27, at WinStar World Casino & Resort in Thackerville.

This day of fellowship will feature guest speakers and sessions on resources, programs and services for veterans.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. A special luncheon hosted by the Chickasaw Warrior Society will begin at 11:30 a.m.

For more information, visit www.chickasaw.net/vetconf or

call (580) 272-2550.



Hall of Fame set for June 21 at Norman Embassy Suites

NORMAN, Okla. - A celebrated storyteller, a renowned art scholar, a legacy wrestling duo and an esteemed jurist make up the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame class of 2016.

Induction ceremonies will be 6 p.m., Tuesday, June 21, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Norman.

Doors open at 5 p.m. and the banquet begins at 6 p.m.

Governor Bill Anoatubby will induct the new class of honorees. Lynn Moroney, Margaret Flans-

burg, Floyd Gerald "Gerry" Brisco, Freddie Joe "Jack" Brisco and George Dixie Colbert will be inducted into the Chickasaw Hall of Fame during the ceremony.

There is no charge to attend, but reservations are required for the event.

To make reservations contact Brielle Helm at (580) 436-7258 or email brielle.helm@chickasaw.net

For more information about the Chickasaw Hall of Fame, visit www.hof.chickasaw.net.

Upcoming Events

Cont'd

Gourdget Class
June 21, 2-4 p.m.
ARTesian Gallery & Studios,
Sulphur, Okla.
(580) 622-8040

Children's Festival
June 25
Chickasaw Cultural Center,
Sulphur, Okla.
(580) 622-7130

Southern Pucker Toe Moccasin (mini)
July 9, 10 a.m.-Noon & 1-3 p.m.
Chickasaw National Capitol,
Tishomingo, Okla.
(580) 371-3351

For more information about Chickasaw Nation events, visit www.chickasaw.net/calendar.



ECU Chickasaha Holitoplich graduates
Fifteen East Central (OK) University Chickasaw graduates walked across the stage last month during commencement exercises at ECU's Ataloa Theater. Each student was presented a Chikasha Holitoplich stole, a symbol of their hard work and academic dedication. From left are Cyndall Brown, Jordan Lewis, Brandon Post oak, Taylor Edgar, Andrew Bliss, Taryn Jack, Hillari Snider, Kellie Lott, Danielle Dameron, Jordan Pharr, Harley Lenox, Charlesey Youngwolfe, Andrea Tedore and Gina Frazier. Not pictured are Becky Floyd and Shanon Shaw.

Boggy Depot gospel singing June 11
A gospel singing is scheduled for Boggy Depot from 4 p.m. through 10 p.m., Saturday, June 11.
The concert will feature Scrapeiron, Chosen Vessel, In His Gates, Rejoice and more. The event is hosted by Chickasaw Nation History and Culture.
Food and refreshments will be

served.
Everyone is invited to join in this concert event.
Boggy Depot Historic Park is in Atoka, Okla. To get to Boggy Depot, take State Highway 7 east of Wapanucka, turn south on Park Lane and travel four miles.
For more information call (580) 371-9835.

GOURDget classes June 14, 21
Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities is offering GOURDget classes with Dustin Mater.
Classes will be 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday, June 14 at the Arts & Humanities building, 201 N. Broadway Ave., Ada and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.,

Tuesday, June 21 at the ARTesian Gallery & Studios, 100 W. Muskogee St., Sulphur. Classes are free, and materials will be provided. Limit 10 people per class.
For more information call (580) 272-5520.

BUILD WITH TOY BRICKS EXHIBIT
May 7 - September 11

CHICKASAW CULTURAL CENTER
ADVENTURE ROAD

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Chickasaw students' higher education grants, scholarship deadline June 15

Chickasaw students wishing to receive higher education grants and scholarships for the 2016 summer semester must apply by June 15.
Students participating in an undergraduate, graduate or doctoral program from an accredited college are eligible to receive assistance through a number of grants and scholarship programs provided through the Chickasaw Nation.
Grants and scholarships assist part-time and full-time students with tuition, books and fees.
Applicants must complete a Programs, Grants and Scholarship Application and provide an official high school or college transcript and schedule of classes.
Applications are available at www.chickasaw.net/highered.
For more information, contact Education Services at (580) 421-7711.

CHINCIE ROSS | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Christian Church.
"She keeps track of everything and everybody and has a clipping for it or a picture," Tuttle City Councilman Mary Smith said in 2013. "She has always been special to Tuttle. She knows everybody and everybody knows her. She has a wonderful sense of humor and a wonderful sense of community. She has made us a better community because she has been here."
Mrs. Ross was moved to tears by the honor and recalled her father. "I had a smart ol' daddy," she said. "He said 'never get up in the morning without thanking the Great Spirit for the graciousness and the beautiful day it's going to be. Give everyone your blessing because everyone needs a blessing even if it's just a smile. Look at people and smile. It doesn't cost a cent. You'd be surprised at the people who's only blessing that day will be your smile.'"
"Whatever you do, just be nice to people and hand it on to someone else because someone has got to be a leader," Mrs. Ross told the gathering on hand to honor her that day. "Always thank the Great Spirit for what all he has given you."
A portrait of Mrs. Ross, painted by famed Chickasaw artist Mike Larsen, adorns the meeting room honoring her.
"I'm so proud to be Chickasaw," Mrs. Ross remarked several times during the 2013 ceremony.
Throughout her life, Mrs. Ross worked in various positions with several tribes including the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Choctaw, Navajo and Chickasaw.
Mrs. Ross was a member of the Chickasaw Nation northern Pontotoc tribal council for many years.

CONTRIBUTED BY Tom Bolitho, Editor, Chickasaw Times.

JAE L. & CROSSOVER
AND SPECIAL GUESTS

7 P.M.
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The Chickasaw Times is published by the Chickasaw Times, 210 E. Main St., Ada, OK 74820, P.O. Box 1548, Ada, OK 74821 monthly with two special issues published one in June and one in September.
Subscriptions are free.
Send mail to:
P.O. Box 1548, Ada, OK 74821
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Editorial statements of the Chickasaw Times, guest columns and readers' letters reflect the opinions of the writer and not necessarily those of the Chickasaw Times, its staff or the tribal administration of the Chickasaw Nation.
All editorials and letters will become the property of the Chickasaw Times. Editorials must be signed by the author and include the author's address.
Deadline for submission is the 15th of each month prior to publication. Submissions can be mailed, faxed, hand-delivered or e-mailed.

Our expansive culture key to our success together



**GOV. BILL
ANOATUBBY**

**Governor,
the Chickasaw
Nation**

“To enhance the overall quality of life of the Chickasaw People.”

This is the simple, straightforward mission statement of the Chickasaw Nation. Our mission statement is what guides those of us who serve Chickasaws every day at our work.

Most Chickasaws know our tribal mission statement. Bu many probably don’t know our tribal vision: “To be a Nation of successful and united people with a strong cultural identity.”

Our fundamental mission is to make Chickasaw lives better. Our vision for the future is to help Chickasaws achieve success in their lives, and empower Chickasaws to be part of the powerful bond that unites us. We want all Chickasaws to understand the unique and compelling

history of our tribal culture. We are unique. Our Chickasaw culture is built on a history of supporting each other and overcoming great challenge. Our vision is for all Chickasaws to understand, to “feel” that bond, in a very real and complete way.

Those of you in business or corporate environments have no doubt participated in strategic plans. These plans attempt to identify real needs, areas for improvement and opportunities for future success.

Our tribal strategic plan is based both on our mission statement and our vision for the future.

We have produced a number of objectives we will seek to accomplish over the next five to 10 years. Of course, we want to achieve our objectives as quickly as possible, which means better service to citizens.

We also realize big ideas can take time to completely mature and have the desired effect. These ideas require the effort of all of us who serve you in office at the Chickasaw Nation.

Each objective speaks to issues that, we believe, are imperative to properly serving our tribal mission statement and vision.

As an example, one of our objectives is to “increase opportunities to participate in all forms of cultural expression.” This is obviously a very important element, and one that can be developed and promoted for many years.

Our desire is to provide more opportunities for Chickasaws to participate in cultural activities, and to bring down any walls that may hinder expressions of cultural pride. We have invested significant resources to making our culture accessible to all Chickasaws in many differ-

ent formats. Key portions of this objective include creating culturally inspired wellness efforts. The care of our bodies and our overall health are important. We are also incorporating a cultural awareness of the importance of our mental and spiritual health. Chickasaws with a deep understanding of their cultural heritage find this a natural thing. As we move forward with this outreach, more Chickasaws are exposed to this thinking and provided the proper cultural background.

Increasing cultural expression includes expanded opportunities to learn and use our language. We have many speakers, and we are seeing more all the time. It is important we grow on that base and that we engage our people in their language. Our language programs have grown very quickly and have engaged Chickasaw youngsters, elders, and everyone in between. Not only is it rewarding, it’s fun!

There are lots of ways we all contribute to the mission and vision of the Chickasaw Nation.

We are together increasing the knowledge of our Chickasaw customs; improving our communications with citizens; promoting government participation and citizen involvement; improving access to services, and much more.

Each of these pieces of the puzzle takes time, energy and a willingness to “see it through.” These efforts help enhance the quality of Chickasaw lives, and build strong cultural identity among all our people. Our culture enriches us, encourages us, unites us. It is right that we build on our Chickasaw culture, history and traditions. We are blessed to be citizens of a vital and growing tribe of progressive people!

Chickasaw Nation Head Start Graduations

Over 100 children graduate tribal Head Start centers

Approximately 125 students from the Ada, Ardmore, Sulphur and Tishomingo Chickasaw Nation Head Start centers were celebrated May 17-19 during graduation ceremonies.

Donning mortarboards and graduation gowns, reminiscent of traditional Chickasaw ribbon shirts, graduates from each center opened the program with entertainment for family, friends, Chickasaw Nation leaders, teachers and center staff members.

Head Start and Early Childhood Development director

Robert Pickens welcomed and thanked the families for attending the festivities. He introduced Chickasaw royalty Raechell Meely, Lauren John, and Lauren Key, who performed a beautiful invocation of the Lord’s Prayer in sign language.

A special presentation was performed by each graduating class including songs performed, “ABCs,” “Dynamite Graduation” and “Ice, Ice, Baby.”

Mr. Pickens thanked tribal officials, legislators, administrators, the Chickasaw Princesses

and Head Start staff members in attendance.

Governor Bill Anoatubby and Lt. Governor Jefferson Keel greeted and presented each child with his or her diploma.

As graduates received their diplomas, teachers shared each child’s career aspirations with attendees.

Mr. Pickens expressed his appreciation to Gov. Anoatubby and Lt Gov. Keel for making education a priority in the Chickasaw Nation. He also thanked the parents and guardians in

attendance for supporting the children and emphasized the importance of education.

“I must have one of the best jobs in the Chickasaw Nation, to see these children grow,” Mr. Pickens said.

The Chickasaw Nation Head Start is a center-based federally- and tribally-funded program that promotes the school readiness of children ages three to five. The Head Start philosophy is based on the principle that early childhood education should address children’s needs

in all areas of development: physical, social, emotional and cognitive.

The Chickasaw Nation Head Start program, focuses on providing skill appropriate services for all Head Start students. Enrollment preference is given to Native American and low-income families and children with disabilities.

For more information, please contact Chickasaw Nation Education at (580) 421-7711.

CONTRIBUTED BY Carmen Carter, Public Affairs.



Ada Head Start

(Top row, from left)
Row 1: Aries Logan, Gage Goings, Damien Williams, Caylee Reed, Addyson Bailey, Isiah Perez, Jett Harris, Mia Phillips, Carter Frazier, MaKayla Sparks.
Row 2: Skyler Attebery, Jaylynn Neely, Jordan Johnson, Khloe Tilley, Eli Harjo, Kaden Bliss, Giovanni Hernandez, Lorelai Geisler, Ma’Kyiah Sparks, Juliann Neeley, Cyrus Bear.
Row 3: Zaden Tomlin, Kade Stinnet, London West, Gavin Price, Wake Berst, Metrie Williams, Kaylyn Alfred, Jaxon Dunnigan, Nikoha Ferrari.
Row 4: Elizabeth Wilcox, Sydney Parker, Joen McReynolds, Berlynn Jolley, Khloee Burgess, Aaliyah Ross, Jayvyn Ross, Kinley Alexander, Ethan Fulkerson, Cassidy Brown, stroller- Kyleigha Bohannon.
Tribal officials, leadership, and Head Start staff: Rusti Barnes; Kristi Hayes; Debbie Hill; Gov. Bill Anoatubby; Secretary of Community Services Wayne Scribner; Under Secretary Tom John; Hazel Wallace, Weston Brown; Lt. Gov. Jefferson Keel; L’tisha Jackson; Darlene Adams; Donna Howling-Wolf; Tammy Walton; Rachel Turner; Marvia Johnson.



Sulphur Head Start

(Top row, from left)
Row 1: Maelee Gay, Keaton Black, Alex Wells, Karson Nunley, Adrian Shea.
Row 2: Kaytee Grove, Brantley Tankersley.
Row 3: Addison Espitia, Grant Courtney, Bryson Griffin, Braylee Laymance, Ayden Espitia, Karson Pennington, Sebastian Turner.
Tribal officials and royalty: Chickasaw Princess Raechell Meely; Chickasaw Jr. Princess Lauren John; Gov. Bill Anoatubby; Lt. Gov. Jefferson Keel; Little Miss Chickasaw Lauren Key.



Tishomingo Head Start

(Top row, from left)
Row 1: Rylee Gastineau, Marshall Neblett, Bryleigh Cole, Aiden Cobb, Chayni Dill, Jagger Vaughn, Kendall Lowe.
Row 2: Lexus Parks, Tafv Greenwood, Kizzie Wood, Alexis Vaness, Alysun Chapman, Aubrey Blevins.
Tribal officials, leadership, and Head Start staff: Jeremy Wallace, Sherie Miller; Deloris Campbell; Shoshanah Davis; Sahara Butts; Gov. Bill Anoatubby; Jodi Holt; Under Secretary Tom John; Chickasaw Princess Raechell Meely; Little Miss Chickasaw Lauren Key; Community Services Secretary Wayne Scribner; Lt. Gov. Jefferson Keel; Robert Pickens; April Updegraff; Executive Officer Danny Wells; Tina Hamilton; Janet Sparkman.



Ardmore Head Start

(Top row, from left)
Row 1: Je’Sean Nash, Knox Phipps, Kayleigh Inlow, Deleigha Stevenson, Cristian Quiroz, Autumn Trevino, Xander Davis, Ava Turner, Lyndsay Rios, Jennifer Molina, Addy Peery, Yazmine Perez, Xavier Tillman.
Row 2: Noah Pelton, Savannah Pickens, Emmitt Clark, La’Shyia Douglas, Byrek Pickens, Grace Lindemaier, Shylynn Litts, Londyn Scott, Cesar Garcia, Sydnie Hartman, Darin Lee Jr., Stephen Wall.
Row 3: Brianna Garcia, Larry McDonald, Kyler Reed, Mark Sanchez, Adelyn Smith, Athena Vernoy, Ryley Stringfellow, Andy Smith, Centrel Knight, Chloe McCauley, Xavier Marris, Johnny Sands, Lily Skaggs, Talitha Leiva.
Row 4: Robert Inman, Sophia Balderrama, Madison Miller, Sofia Montano, Reyna Barrientos, Lily Farve, Raigann Richburg, Nevaeh Sampson, Ellie Lovell, Jhamari Singleton-Williams, Cristian Zapata, Deacon McAdoo, Lily Batterton, Luna Stone.
Tribal officials, leadership and Head Start staff: Robert Pickens; Shana Hammond; Secretary of Community Services Wayne Scribner; Under Secretary Tom John; Gov. Bill Anoatubby; Lt. Gov. Jefferson Keel; Chickasaw Jr. Princess Lauren John; Little Miss Chickasaw Lauren Key; Chickasaw Princess Raechell Meely; Executive Officer Danny Wells.

All photos contributed by Jacquelyn Sparks and Marcy Gray

‘TeAta,’ ‘ilittibaaimpa’

Chickasaw Press volumes recognized by Oklahoma Book Awards, Independent Publisher

ADA, Okla. - The Chickasaw Press recently received regional and statewide awards for works it published in 2015.

Oklahoma Book Awards
“Ilittibaaimpa’: Let’s Eat Together! A Chickasaw Cookbook,” is this year’s winner in the illustration and photography category of the 27th Annual Oklahoma Book Awards (OBA).

Three other Chickasaw Press volumes made it into the OBA finals. They include “Wenonah’s Story: A memoir of a Chickasaw Family,” “Chokma’si: The Beauty of the Chickasaw Nation” and “Te Ata: Chickasaw Storyteller, American Treasure.”

At the regional level, *the Independent Publisher*, a monthly digital publication dedicated to independent publishers, booksellers and authors, presented gold and silver awards to two Chickasaw Press books in their best regional nonfiction category for the Midwest region. “Wenonah’s Story: A memoir of a Chickasaw Family,” took gold and “Chokma’si: The Beauty of the Chickasaw Nation,” took silver.

About the books and authors
“Wenonah’s Story: A Memoir of a Chickasaw Family”

Written by Dr. Robin Gunning, this book tells the story of James Wenonah Paul Gunning, Robin’s mother. Gunning narrates the tale of family life, a portrait of the historic Paul family of Pauls Valley, Okla.

Dr. Gunning, a Chickasaw, graduated from the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine in 1967. He served as a preventive medicine officer in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, completed residency training in internal medi-

cine at Baylor College of Medicine in 1973 and went on to a career in Oklahoma City and Colorado until his 2006 retirement. Since then, he has enjoyed writing, playing violin, and hiking the Rocky Mountains. He lives in Lone Tree, Colorado, with his wife, Sarah.

“Ilittiibaaimpa’: Let’s Eat Together! A Chickasaw Cookbook”

The second cookbook published by the Chickasaw Press brings together recipes and slices of life from the kitchens of five modern Chickasaw Nation families as they share favorite dishes for those special times when gathering to enjoy good food and good times.

Author JoAnn Ellis is a fluent speaker of the Chickasaw language and works as specialist in the Chickasaw Language department. She is an instructor for its Master and Apprentice programs. She also works as an adjunct professor for Chickasaw language studies at East Central University in Ada, Okla.

Chickasaw and Cherokee Vicki May Penner, the second author, is retail manager at the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur, Okla. She holds a master’s degree in education from East Central University and spent 25 years in education before joining the Chickasaw Nation.

“Te Ata: Chickasaw Storyteller, American Treasure - Collector’s Edition”

Richard Green wrote this biography of one of history’s most famous Chickasaws, Te Ata

Thompson Fisher, which was re-introduced by Chickasaw Press as a collector’s edition in hardcover, featuring additional photos, many previously unpublished,

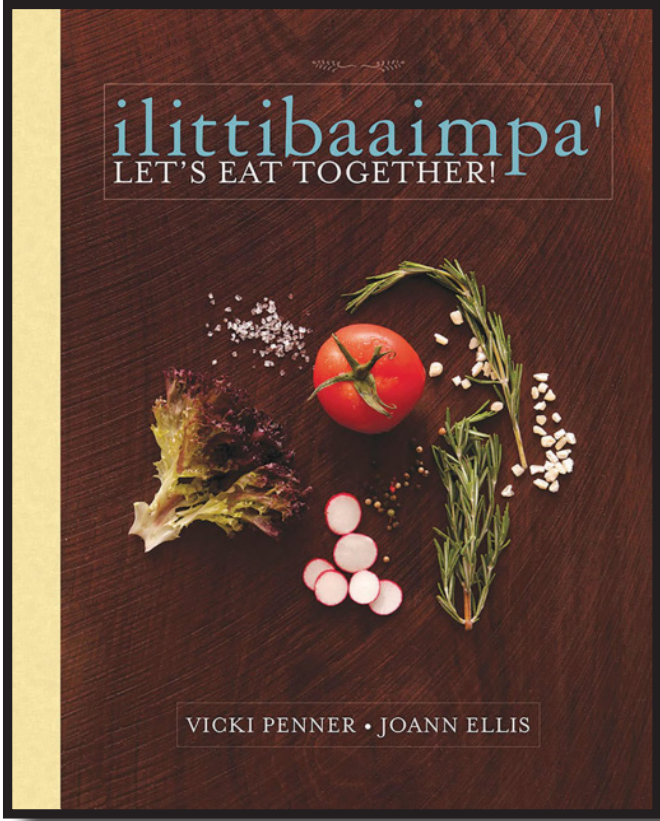
In this first photography-art book from Chickasaw Press, Chickasaw photographer Branden Hart brought forth scenes of startling beauty from among the

passion professionally.

The Chickasaw and Choctaw author, Stanley Nelson, is senior staff writer for Chickasaw Press. He came to serve at the Press in



“Te Ata: Chickasaw Storyteller, American Treasure - Collector’s Edition” recently made it to the finals of the Oklahoma Book Awards. The book chronicles the life of Chickasaw storyteller Te Ata Thompson Fisher.



“Ilittibaaimpa’: Let’s Eat Together! A Chickasaw Cookbook” won awards for illustration and photography with the 27th Annual Oklahoma Book Awards. The cookbook features the meals of five modern Chickasaw families.

from Te Ata’s private family collection.

Mr. Green has been a tribal historian of the Chickasaw Nation since 1994. He was founding editor of the Journal of Chickasaw History and Culture.

“Chokma’si: The Beauty of the Chickasaw Nation”

sights, small matters, and vast lands awaiting discovery within the borders of the Chickasaw Nation in south central Oklahoma.

Hart is an accomplished photographer, musician and songwriter. His love of photography began the first time he picked up a camera as a child. As an adult, he has continued to pursue that

2010, after more than 30 years as an award-winning media relations professional, editor, and columnist for businesses and publications in Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Colorado.

CONTRIBUTED BY Brandon Frye, Media Relations.

Gold at State



Chickasaw athlete Addison Kliever and her father, Phil, with three individual gold medals Addison won at Oklahoma 2A state track meet. Addison’s team, the Cordell Blue Devils, took the team championship and Addison is holding that trophy. Addison is a Cordell senior. She has garnered 11 gold medals in track and field during her high school career. She won back-to-back 2A long jump titles, winning on her last jump of her career at 17’11” to beat her top competitor from Dibble. The Blue Devils also won back-to-back championships, taking this year’s competition by over 70 points. Addison has been accepted to the University of Oklahoma. She is Cordell High School 2016 valedictorian.

Top Student



Gabrielle Nucosee, a third grade student at Vanoss (OK) elementary school, was recently selected 2016 Vanoss Native American Club’s student of the year.

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MIKE MCCLURE BAND

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White Dog Press

New children’s book app offers interactive reading experience

White Dog Press, an imprint of Chickasaw Press, has released a new and innovative children's book app based on the award-winning *Chikasha Stories Volume One: Shared Spirit*.

The interactive read-to-me book app melds modern with traditional through technology. The app incorporates music and sound for all ages to enjoy.

“This app opens up doors to reach a new audience of readers with an interactive book experience,” Chickasaw Press director Wiley Barnes said. “Even readers who know *Chikasha Stories* will enjoy this updated version with sound and music. We’re excited about the endless opportunities that apps offer to enhance our great publications and continue to share Chickasaw history and culture in a modern way.”

A 2012 Oklahoma Book Award winner, *Chikasha Stories Volume One: Shared Stories*, is a collection of stories drawn from Chickasaw oral tradition. It is the first bilingual book series published by Chickasaw Press. Stories are artfully told by premier Chickasaw storyteller and tribal elder Glenda Galvan (English), and by JoAnn Ellis, Jerry Imotichey and Joshua D. Hinson (Chickasaw).

The collection serves as an introduction to the Chickasaw language, while preserving the storytelling tradition that is vital to Chickasaw culture. Presented as children's stories, the collection is brought to life with the whimsical and vibrant illustrations of award-winning Chickasaw artist Jeannie Barbour.

Volume One introduces the kindred spirit Chickasaw people have always shared with

animals and nature. Each tale teaches important life lessons and provides an ancient Chickasaw perspective on why things in nature occur the way they do.

The highlighted narration allows users to read along with traditional stories in both English and Chickasaw, with the ability to choose to listen to each story or read it themselves. Children will be able to touch images and objects to hear their names in English and Chickasaw.



“The Chikasha Stories app is a unique opportunity for people to read along with a native speaker, seeing moment by moment how a word’s pronunciation aligns with its spelling,” Mr. Hinson, director of language said. “This can be quite eye-opening for a learner. This intersection of language revitalization and new media is very exciting for those of us working daily to bring our language back to prominence. Media allows us to reach out to folks regardless of where they live, bringing language directly to them. It’s a great time for us to attempt this and other media-based language projects.”

The *Chikasha Stories Volume One: Shared Stories* app is available on Apple devices and can be downloaded through iTunes or the Appstore <https://itunes.apple.com/us/store>. For Android mobile devices, the app is available for purchase at the Amazon App Store, www.amazon.com/appstore, for \$2.99.

For more information, contact the Chickasaw Press at (580) 436-7282 or www.chickasaw-press.com.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

Spring music concert brings the crowd

ADA, Okla. – April 23 at the McSwain Theatre marked the culmination of a great season for the Chickasaw Nation School of Guitar. Family and friends gathered as students demonstrated the skills they had learned in a special concert.

A course that brings music to life for Chickasaws and other youth, the School of Guitar provides students with instruction and the opportunity to perform in a professional venue.

This year’s concert featured music from “Riders in the Sky” to “Love Me Tender.”

During the concert, the 2016 Anoli Creative Writing Contest Winners were announced. Chickasaw writers from across the country submitted 25 written works in three categories and three divisions. The topic was “Exploring the Intersection of the Roads I Walk.”

2016 Anoli Creative Writing Contest Winners
Division 1 (6th-8th grade)
Poetry
First place - Angelina Bruner, *Who am I?*
Essay
·First place - Angelina Bruner, *My Paths Are Many*
·Second place - Tuff Hammons, *The Path That I Walk*
·Third place - Jynsa Ryan, *The Road That I Walk*

Division 2 (9th-12th grade)
Poetry
·First place - Sophia Starnes, *In a Web of My Own Making*
·Second place - Pakanli Ramsey, *In My Time of Travel*
·Third place - Zeb Hawkins, *Crossroads*
·Honorable mention - Pakanli Ramsey, *Walking Forward*
·Honorable mention - Kyla Davidson, *The Road I Walk*
Essay
·First place - Caroline Keel, *Crossroads*
Short Story
·First place - Zeb Hawkins, *Deliverance*
·Second place - James Gillet, *My True Companion*
·Third place - Malissa Johnson, *A Mother’s Point of View*

Division 3 (Young adult-age 24)



Anoli Creative Writing Contest award winners were announced during the Spring Music Concert, April 23 at the McSwain Theatre in Ada. Front row Left to right-Taylor Owen, Tuff Hammons, Malissa Johnson. Back row-Winter Stephens, Pakanli Ramsey.



School of Guitar students performing during the Spring Music Concert April 23, at the McSwain Theatre in Ada. Front row Left to right-Savannah Cozad, Reese Jordan, Shane Skinner. Middle row Cade Skinner, Jacob Neal and Dale Shackleford. Back row Caleb Barrick, Cody Moldenhauer, Zach Mackey.

Poetry
·First place - Ashley Vance, *At the Merging*
·Second place - Julianne Haub, *The Tire Swing*
·Third place - Mercedes Elmore, *Countless Roads, Unending Memories*
·Honorable mention - Julianne Haub, *A New Life and Two Dresses*
Essay
·First place - Taylor Owen, *The*

Most Influential Intersection on My Road
·Second place - Ashley Vance, *My Grandfather’s Wisdom*
·Third place - Taylor Owen, *An Extraordinary Road Traveled by a Top Hat*
Short Story
·First place - Ashley Vance, *The Vanishing Sister*
·Second place - Winter Stephens, *I’ll Be There*

Chickasaw Marine veteran uses experience as springboard to career in civilian life

According to former U.S. Marine Corps Captain Matthew Bates, a Marine’s resume is worn on his chest. With a quick glance at the uniform, you can tell many things about a Marine’s military career.

But like traditional resumes, the medals, ribbons and badges relay only the most basic information. They don’t tell the unique story of an individual’s service.

Like many service members before him, Capt. Bates began considering the idea of military service as a young man.

“I had made the decision to go into the military while in high school,” he said. “I learned the difference between the enlisted and officer ranks and the different paths between them. I made a visit to the Naval Academy before my junior year.”

At Annapolis, he met a naval officer who would change the direction of his life.

“I had dinner with a gentleman who had a story similar to mine,” Capt. Bates said. “It was a life-changing experience. I thought it was going to be tough for a kid from a small town in Oklahoma to attend such a prestigious school. He was from a small, rural town in Nebraska. He was the commanding officer of a ballistic missile submarine. I thought, ‘If he could do it, so can I.’”

While in high school in Ardmore, Okla., the future Marine focused all of his academic and extracurricular attention on completing the dream of attending the Naval Academy.

The U.S. Naval Academy requires a rigorous application process. Candidates must have the support of a Member of Congress from their home state, or have a presidential nomination. Applicants are some of the best in the



Capt. Matthew Bates and an Iraqi Army Captain. Capt. Bates was embedded with the Iraqi Army. He was assigned to a 15-man team that supported an 800-man unit from the Iraqi Army.

me out of class to go to the counselor’s office. My first thought was that I was in trouble. The school had me call Congressman Watkins’ office, where he gave me the news. I was honored and humbled to be selected. It was certainly a high point of my life at the time.”

Capt. Bates graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2005 with a degree in economics. He then became an active duty service member, accepting a commission within the U.S. Marine Corps.

“It was pre-9/11 when I was accepted (to the Naval Academy),” he said. “The prospect of me going to war was pretty far from my mind. I had a full head of hair and imagined myself like Tom Cruise. I was going to go fly jets. That was the lifestyle I was going to live.

But the events of Sept. 11, 2001 changed his direction.

“During my freshman year at the Naval Academy, the September

11 attacks happened,” he said. “It shifted my mindset. I had been around Marines. I gravitated to them. I can’t lie and say my parents were happy, but they supported my decision to become a Marine.”

Capt. Bates completed a six-month course all Marine officers attend. Known as The Basic School, or TBS, he learned skills necessary to become an infantry platoon commander. Graduating in the top 10 percent of the class, he was selected for artillery school.

“Based on my performance at TBS, I was given my top choice of schools to attend,” he said. “Artillery is known as the ‘king of the battlefield.’ It has a technical side I am drawn to. You have to calculate and compute these gigantic guns that fire 100-pound shells upwards of 30 kilometers. It takes a lot of science and ballistics knowledge to hit targets you can’t see miles and miles away.”

Being a member of an artillery unit allowed him to perform multiple roles. He was able to calculate data before the large guns were fired, or relay information while in the field back to artillery pieces.

“I have done a little of everything in the artillery world,” he said. “I was only away from it once for about a year (during his service). I was on special assignment with a 15-man team that supported an 800-man unit from the Iraqi Army. When I came back, I became an executive officer of an artillery unit.”

Embedded with the Iraqi Army, he found the experience one of the most challenging, but rewarding, of his career. He absorbed intense language, cultural and specialty training. Communications between the Americans and

Iraqi troops were often difficult, but the reward of seeing the Iraqi troops master his training was a large point of pride for the Marine officer.

An artillery battery executive officer, Capt. Bates was second-in-command of a unit consisting of 160 Marines and their equipment. He oversaw the daily logistical and operational planning of the battery, including a 260-day stretch of combat duty in Afghanistan.

“As an executive officer, I acted as a mentor to many of the junior officers,” he said. “I had been in their shoes before. Leading men is a tremendous honor. It is even more so when it is your peers (other officers). I still remember the mentors I had and strived to be like how they were.”

In all, Capt. Bates completed two combat deployments to Iraq, two combat deployments to Afghanistan and was assigned to the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit to the Horn of Africa, where he served as liaison officer between U.S. commanders and foreign militaries in the Republic of Djibouti.

In addition to unit citations, he has been awarded two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

“No one gets recognized without the folks around them doing tremendous work,” he said. “I certainly was never a one-person show. It is a point of pride, but if it wasn’t for the incredible Marines I served with I would never have been recognized.”

While overseas, communication with family and friends was important. Capt. Bates would most often converse via email or satellite phone with friends and family. He was thoughtful about when he

called or emailed.

“I never told my family when I would write or call,” he said. “I didn’t want them to get worried if they didn’t hear from me. If I ever felt I really needed to talk to them, I would call them when necessary.”

Food is especially important to those who serve. The Navy and Marine Corps provide servicemen in the field with nonperishable field rations, called MREs. Adequate to sustain life, MREs are often eaten for long stretches of time by soldiers in the field. As his deployments progressed, the food became progressively better as cooking systems were made available.

“One of the highlights is when you got some good food,” he said. “It was always really great that someone would fly in a steak and lobster dinner in Afghanistan. I can’t believe I have had lobster tail in the middle of the desert.”

Capt. Bates and the Marines with whom he served were the recipients of the many care packages from home. The packages came from friends, family and friendly organizations who supported the troops. The contents of the packages were usually shared among the Marines.

One of the favorite items, he said, were pop culture magazines. Without the luxury of television or the internet, magazines were the only way to stay informed on current events.

“Most (Marines) are not consumed with the political or financial happenings of the world,” he said. “They are mostly consumed with what was happening right in front of them. But for some reason everyone wants to know what

Legislative years filled with great memories, citizen achievements

Chukma and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District. May is typically a month of change. Congratulations to all of our Chickasaw graduates! You have moved upward and onward to realize your dreams for more education and to further your careers and dreams. Most of you will either move into the work force or to continue your education. May God bless you as you make these important choices.



MARY JO GREEN

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

We attended the groundbreaking for the Veterans' Lodge in Ada. It was the largest groundbreaking I have ever attended with many of our veterans present. The Governor's address was especially inspiring, I thought. The Lodge will sit on a hill just west of the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center and it is a beautiful spot on that campus.

Two Texas Community Councils combined their meetings. It provided an opportunity for several Legislators to meet with Chickasaws from both areas.

The annual elections this year includes my Seat 5, Pontotoc District. I sadly and regretfully inform you today that I will not seek another term on the Legis-

lature. The state of my health and family conditions require me to devote more time and energy at home. It is time for someone younger than I, with more energy and some new ideas to continue the work of the Legislature with my blessing.

I was first elected in 1999 after serving the Chickasaw Nation as an employee for 22 years, and have been with the Nation now for a total of 39 years. God blessed me with the opportunity to witness and be a part of tremendous growth in the Nation. Together we have prospered and grown to be a world leader among not just Indian nations, but all nations in the world. We have realized many of our hopes and dreams for our Nation and there is still room for growth. We are all blessed that Governor Anotubby continues to plan ahead and can visualize the future. We are considered a small tribe, but under Governor's guidance we have accomplished more than any other Indian nation. In terms of our holdings, health and education programs and employment opportunities, we are doing well, very well indeed. I feel so humble to have been a part of this tribal history and words are difficult to find to express how truly grateful I am to the Governor, my colleagues on the Legislature and you, the Chickasaw voter, for the confidence you have shown me over these many years. What a wonderful priveledge it has been to help our people. Chokmash'ski! Thank you very, very much!

Just because I am retiring on October 1 doesn't mean that I am going completely away, however. I will continue to be with you, enjoy your company and camaraderie, and help you as much as I can. My contact numbers will remain the same as they are listed in this Chickasaw Times and I will share my new email address when I get one.

As always, I would love to hear from you. Chi ihullo li! Until next time, I wish God's blessings on all of our people.

Thank you. Chipisala'cho!

Despite the cold weather, Chikasaha Ittifama reunion a big success!

Chokma, Chinchokma, Hello, how are you? This year's Chikasha Ittifama, (Chickasaw Reunion), which took place May 13 and 14 at Kullihoma, will go down as one of the coldest in recent years. Typical of Oklahoma weather, after having beautiful spring weather just days before, a storm front blew through bringing strong northerly winds and some rain.



NANCY ELLIOTT
Secretary
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

The brave campers, who stuck it out, should be applauded for their determination and bravery. In spite of the weather, lots of Chickasaws enjoyed a traditional meal with family and friends, participated in cultural games, and renewed friendships. I really enjoyed seeing all the young people participating in their tribe's cultural traditions. Getting together with other Chickasaws to renew old acquaintances and make new ones is always worth putting up with some uncomfortable weather.

Thank you to Eddie Postoak and all the volunteers who worked to make this event possible. I have never seen the grounds more beautiful! Everything was organized well, and the food was fantastic! A special thank you to all the cooks for giving of your time

and talents to pass on our traditional foods, like fry bread, salt pork, pishofa, and grape dumplings. Yum!

Summer is here, and time for summer camps and vacations. I hope you and your family have the opportunity to participate in the many events provided by the Chickasaw Nation. If you need someplace to go this summer, just check out the calendar on our website.

This month is also when we honor our new inductees into the Chickasaw Hall of Fame. Congratulations to all of our inductees! We are such a blessed Nation to have so many talented and successful people, who are also very generous and willing to give of their talents to help others and pass on their culture. It makes me so proud to read the stories of the Hall of Fame members. The 2016 Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be at the Embassy Suites in Norman, Okla., on June 21 at 6 p.m. There is no charge, but you do need to make a reservation early, as it will fill up fast.

One of our esteemed elders and Hall of Fame members, Thelma "Chincie" Ross, of Tuttle, Okla. went home to be with the Lord on May 16. She was 98 years young when she passed peacefully in her sleep. I first met Chincie at a Chickasaw Community Council meeting. She was already into her 90s, but still going strong. She had a quick wit and twinkle in her eye that captivated everyone around her. I was so proud that she was inducted into the Hall of Fame last year, and we were able to honor her for all her accomplishments throughout her life. She was truly a treasure to all who knew her, and she will be missed! She lived her life always giving and helping others. I told someone recently that Christians and Chickasaws never retire. We just keep on giving until the Lord calls us home. My life is so much richer for having known Chincie Ross! Please let me know if I can help you in any way.

Chipisala' cho anowa, Until I see you again,
Nancy
580-399-4374
Nancy. Elliott@Chickasaw.net
Pontotoc District Seat 2

Be your own best advocate when it comes to your family's health care

Hello Everybody, I'm sorry for not having an article last month, but my son, Jeff, was very ill for the whole month. He had 4 emergency room visits in three cities, a surgery in Edmond, and two hospital stays in two states over the course of about a month. It was a tough month, but he is better now.

Our family pulled together to help him through and we learned some things about the state of health care in Oklahoma and Texas, specifically about Mercy Health in Ada and Edmond and Baylor in Dallas, Texas.

In addition to kidney stones, appendectomies, gall bladder surgeries, thyroid issues, broken bones, heart attacks, bypass surgeries, diabetes and more, we are a family with two cancer survivors and a kidney transplant recipient among our immediate members. We have had plenty of health care experiences and we stay well informed. Still yet, the experiences of last month reminded us of some things, and we learned some new things that I want to share with you. Hopefully these things will help you in your next encounters with the

healthcare system.

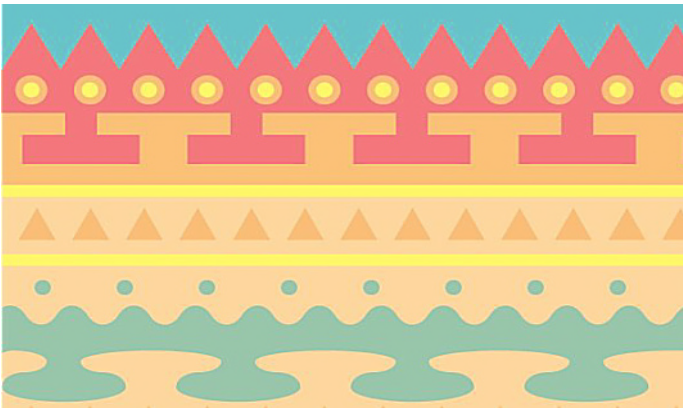
If you have something out of the norm, don't expect your normal healthcare people to be helpful. The majority of healthcare professionals know only what they see on a regular basis. Jeff had a combination of gastroparesis, a condition in which the stomach is slow to empty, and cyclical vomiting syndrome, which is like having a migraine in your abdomen. He couldn't eat and could barely drink, he had incredible headaches and pain in his back and chest. He vomited for the first few days, then wretched and heaved for the remainder of the month, losing 30 pounds in about as many days. He was miserable.

The docs at Mercy in Edmond decided his gall bladder was the root of all his symptoms and surgically removed it. As soon as Jeff came out from under the anesthetic of the surgery, the symptoms resumed. The doctors' explanation was that he would just need time to recover from the bad gall bladder and the surgery. That diagnosis was so wrong.

I'm approaching our article word-limit, so I'll share more lessons learned next month.

If you need me, just call me at (580) 421-4903.

Respectfully,
Katie



Net assets grow to over \$2.2 billion

FINANCIAL REPORT

The tribal government caption includes the tribe's general fund and BIA trust funds. The Chickasaw Businesses include all of the businesses and operations of the Division of Commerce. Not included in the financial statements are federally or state funded programs and/or grants and the financial statements of Bank 2 and Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc.

The growing needs of the businesses are taken into account when determining the transfers from the businesses to the general fund. It is vital to the long range mission of the Chickasaw Nation that the businesses continue to grow and diversify.

Revenues of tribal government, other than the transfer from businesses, include motor fuel settlement funds and investment income. Chickasaw Business revenues include gaming revenues net of prizes and other sales revenues from convenience stores, travel plazas, tobacco stores, other tribal businesses as well as rental and investment income.

Tribal expenditures are classified by function. General government includes the maintenance and operations of tribal property, the Chickasaw Times and governor's and lt. governor's offices. Expenditures for education include education scholarships as well as the tribe's division of education. Health expenditures include eye glasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, wellness center, community health clinics, catastrophic medical assistance and other similar programs not covered by federal programs or grants.

The businesses' expenditures are classified as to expenses associated with gaming operation of the tribe and the other businesses of the tribe.

Executive Summary of the Financial Statements of the period ending April 30, 2016

Tribal Government

Revenues and transfers from the businesses for operations and fixed assets totaled \$19.7 million for the month and \$118.5 million year-to-date. Expenditures were \$9.4 million for the month and \$80.4 million year-to-date.

Chickasaw Businesses

Revenue net of gaming prizes through April 30, 2016 totaled \$800.9 million. Net income before the transfers to the Tribal Government was \$192.2 million year-to-date. After transfers to the Tribal Government for capital projects and tribal program operations the net income was \$86.5 million year-to-date. The net income includes all revenue, including amounts reserved for business growth and expansion.

Statement of Net Assets

At April 30, 2016, the tribal government funds had \$370.4 million in cash and investments. Of this amount, \$23.1 million is in the BIA Trust funds. This total does

not include any federal program funds.

The businesses had \$248.7 million in cash and investments which is reserved for accounts payable and business operations.

As of April 30, 2016, tribal operations, excluding federal program funding, had net assets of \$2.2 billion.

Chickasaw Nation Tribal Operations Statement of Revenues and Expenditures For the Seven Months Ended April 30, 2016			
	Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Revenues	\$ 12,846,653	800,957,423	813,804,075
Transfers From Businesses To Tribal Government	105,722,223	(105,722,223)	-
Total Funds Available	118,568,876	695,235,200	813,804,075
Expenditures			
General Government	4,195,998	-	4,195,998
Legislature	1,702,111	-	1,702,111
Judiciary	663,003	-	663,003
Education	13,987,302	-	13,987,302
Heritage Preservation	13,890,945	-	13,890,945
Health	11,837,400	-	11,837,400
Youth Services	2,378,315	-	2,378,315
Family Services	8,049,770	-	8,049,770
Nutrition Programs	3,859,184	-	3,859,184
Regulatory	6,731,804	-	6,731,804
Assistance Programs	13,135,000	-	13,135,000
Gaming Expense	-	458,623,954	458,623,954
Other Businesses' Expense	-	150,052,447	150,052,447
Total Expenditures	80,430,832	608,676,401	689,107,233
Increase In Net Assets	38,138,044	86,558,799	124,696,842
Beginning Net Assets	818,638,319	1,322,439,260	2,141,077,579
Ending Net Assets	\$ 856,776,362	1,408,998,059	2,265,774,421
Chickasaw Nation Tribal Operations Statement of Net Assets April 30, 2016			
	Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Cash And Investments	\$ 370,438,752	248,736,713	619,175,465
Receivables	13,597,121	130,037,885	143,635,006
Inventory	22,258	7,261,547	7,283,805
Prepaid Expenses	-	24,552,941	24,552,941
Other Assets	-	1,078,139	1,078,139
Fixed Assets	474,761,650	1,143,506,256	1,618,267,906
Less Payables	(2,043,419)	(146,175,421)	(148,218,841)
Net Assets	\$ 856,776,362	1,408,998,059	2,265,774,421

Severe weather a reminder of a number of valuable tribal programs

Chokma!
Greetings from the Tishomingo District!

Oklahoma was once again thrust into the national spotlight when devastating tornadoes and storms targeted our area.

The weather impacted several local communities, with many homes and businesses within the Tishomingo District sustaining damage in a series of severe weather events.

As we watched the recent events unfold: from Davis, east to the Tishomingo area, one common trait was shared: community members working together to help one another recover from the storms' destruction.

Neighbors and friends worked together to pick up the scattered belongings of the storm victims, while still others helped by donating gloves, water and household goods.

Our thoughts and prayers for a swift recovery for these families continue.

We are fortunate that the Chickasaw Nation offers programs and services to help all of our citizens. In many ways, our tribe is similar to the community volunteers, we all work together for the benefit of our fellow citizens.

Housing programs to provide protection - such as the storm shelter program. Last year, the Chickasaw Nation installed more than 725 storm shelters at Chickasaw homes, which totals nearly 4,000 shelters installed since the program began a few years ago.

The program is also available to those who live outside the Chickasaw Nation boundaries, as well, in the form of a grant.

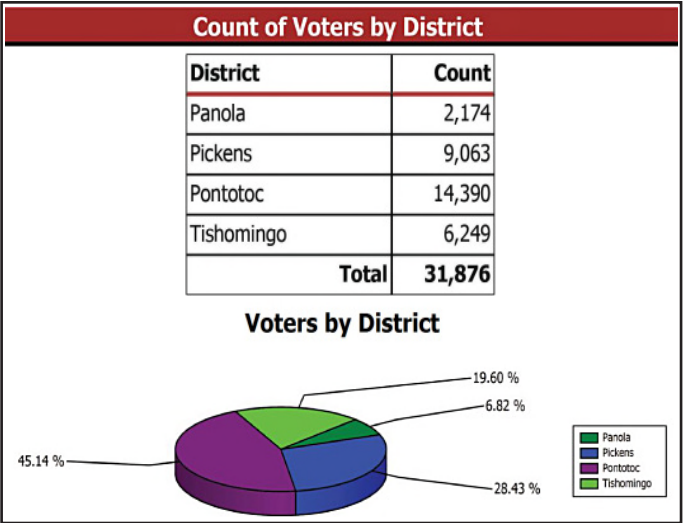
It is during these times - when the weather's ability to damage homes and endanger lives- the storm shelter program's importance is highlighted.

Several other programs are available to our many citizens to help with recovery, including housing assistance, meals for Chickasaw elders, medical programs and more.

To get more detailed information on specific programs, please contact your local area office, or visit Chickasaw.net.

As always, thank you for allowing me to serve as your representative on the Chickasaw legislature. It is a privilege and an honor to serve you.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.
Chokma'shki,
Tim Colbert
Tim.Colbert@chickasaw.net
580-421-7242



Anonymous
**DRUG & CRIME
TIP LINE**
866-928-7384
www.chickasaw.net/LPD
Lighthorse Police Online Tip Form

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Chickasaw Nation
Programs and
Services apps now
available on iOS and
Android devices

Available on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google play

Visit to a Chickasaw cemetery opens a door to Love family history

Recently, I did get the chance to visit with Ms. Judith Trammell about her "Love" Connection. Judith resides on her grandfather's allotment land located not too far from Lake Texoma. We took a little trip down the road and around the corner to where her Great great Grandfather, Samuel Love had his allotment land.

A pipe fence stands firm around the family graveyard and large pecan trees offer shade over the entire area. We did see several markers, such as Samuel Love (1823-1893), Samuel "Isaac" Love (1891-1919), Hercules Martin Love (1885-1940) and many of his children. Judith mentioned that at some point in the construction of Lake Texoma, two graves with the name of Love (no relation) had to be moved from Woodville. This Love family allowed those two to be placed in the family cemetery.



Judith Trammell standing at the gate of Love Cemetery.

When the grounds are cleaned up, Judith and I will head back out there to inspect those two markers and all the other family members! Here is just a sampling of what I discovered about Judith and her ancestors.

It all started with a man named William Love who had a son named Thomas Love whose second wife was Homa-Ho-Ta. They had a son named Samuel Love; He had a son named Edward Davis Love; his son was Samuel Love. (He was not given a middle name so he chose Isaac to be his middle name). Samuel Isaac Love died at the age of 26, of Spanish flu and left behind two daughters, Mary Jane, and Helen Christine. Mary Jane had two sons, Brad, and Hal, who currently reside in Arizona. Helen Christine was the mother of five: Pat, Joe, Marilyn, Judith, and Karen. Judith had 3 children, Joel, Kari and Travis.

In her spare time, Judith enjoys her four grandchildren, reading, raising chickens, and running a ranch that specializes in Limousine cattle.

"A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children." ~ Proverbs 13:22

Beth

From homeland to California, Florida and all points, we are Chickasaw!

For several generations following Removal, virtually all Chickasaws lived in or very near the "new" Chickasaw Nation in the West. Our lands were in Indian Territory, where so many tribes were sent during that very challenging time.

In those days, of course, we stayed together as a matter of necessity. Our lives were very much about survival and basic needs. Additionally, there were really no roads in the Chickasaw Nation, only trails. And about the only way to get anywhere was on foot or horseback.

We were definitely limited in our mobility!

But, soon enough things began to develop. Following Oklahoma statehood, more infrastructure was developed that made getting around at least a bit easier.

In the modern Chickasaw Nation, we have become a very mobile people! Chickasaws now live in all 50 states and a number of foreign countries. This has all happened over the past 100 years or so, and it has accelerated as the environment has become more conducive to travel and relocation.

All this mobility has it's good and bad points. On the good side, Chickasaws can seek good jobs wherever they believe is best for them. Conversely, the mobility has put space - sometimes lots of it - between family members. And that can be a challenge.

But wherever we call home, we are all Chickasaw! Our culture, our history, our common experience binds us as a unique and progressive people. Many may no longer live in the Chickasaw Nation, but the connection is as strong as ever!

I know from the Pickens District Chickasaws I serve that is can be tough to be far from home. I regularly talk with Chickasaws in Texas, California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Florida and many other states. I can't tell you how many times a Chickasaw living far away yearns for his or her "home place." Chickasaws establish families in other places, but they never seem to forget the land that is truly home.

And that is what ties us all together as a people! We all share a deep and abiding love of our tribe and our culture that never lets us go. It is a feeling deep down that is important and constant.

Wherever you live, I am here to serve you! Our tribe offers so much, including excellent cultural programs you can be involved with anywhere. I'm here for you - right here in the heart of the Chickasaw Nation! Call or write me anytime and I'll be ready to help.

Being your Chickasaw legislator is not just my job... it's my privilege to serve you!

Best wishes,
Linda Briggs

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2015-2016 Tribal Legislature

Following is a list of the Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislators including their address and phone numbers. If you have any questions or need any information, please contact the legislator in your area.

Pontotoc District Seat # 1. Toby Perkins 15810 CR 1569 Ada, OK 74820 (580) 399-2606 Toby.Perkins@chickasaw.net 2. Nancy Elliott 620 Ann Ada, OK 74820 (580) 399-4374 Nancy.Elliott@chickasaw.net 3. Katie Case 14368 County Road 3597 Ada, OK 74820 (580) 272-8385 Katie.Case@chickasaw.net 4. Dean McManus 5980 CR 3430 Ada, OK 74820 (580) 235-2651 Dean.McManus@chickasaw.net 5. Mary Jo Green 2000 E. 14th Place Ada, OK 74820 (580) 310-4563 Mary.Green@chickasaw.net	Pickens District Seat # 1. David Woerz P.O. Box 669 Ardmore, OK 73402 (580) 235-3240 David.Woerz@chickasaw.net 2. Connie Barker 509 SW 7th Ave. Marietta, OK 73448 (580) 272-4175 Connie.Barker@chickasaw.net 3. Linda Briggs P.O. Box 241 Marietta, OK 73448 (580) 272-7268 Linda.Briggs@chickasaw.net 4. Shana Tate Hammond 801 North Mississippi Ada, Oklahoma, 74820 (580) 235-1438 Shana.Hammond@chickasaw.net	Tishomingo District Seat # 1. Scott Wood 204 East Main Street Tishomingo, OK 73460 (580) 221-1430 Scott.Wood@chickasaw.net 2. Tim Colbert P.O. Box 773 Sulphur, OK 73086 (580) 421-7242 Tim.Colbert@chickasaw.net 3. Steven Woods 5071 Gray's Road Davis, OK 73030 (580) 272-7270 Steve.Woods@chickasaw.net Panola District Seat # 1. Beth Alexander PO Box 246 Achille, OK 74720 (580) 272-7850 beth.alexander@chickasaw.net bethalexander22@hotmail.com
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BIRTH



Maxwell Thomas Nichols

Chickasaw Nation citizen Adrianne Webb, of Louisville, Ky., is pleased to announce the birth of her grandson, Maxwell Thomas Nichols. He was born on February 28, 2016 at 10:59 a.m. Maxwell weighed 6 lbs., 14.8 oz. He resides in Switzerland with his father, James Robert Nichols, Ms. Webb's son, and also a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, and his mother, Joanna Marta Siewiera Nichols, a German citizen of Polish/German descent.

Others welcoming Maxwell to the family include his uncle, Chickasaw citizen Joseph Jenkins, and Joseph's fiancée, Kelli Ingersoll, both of Dallas, Texas; Kelli's daughter, Alyssa Lyons, of Dallas, Texas; and Maxwell's paternal grandfather, Rick Nichols, and wife, Leslie; Maxwell's maternal grandmother, Yvonne Haller, her husband, Ernest Haller, and Maxwell's uncle, Andreas Haller, who reside in Germany; and his grandfather, Stanislaw Siewiera, who resides in Poland.

Maxwell is a seventh generation Chickasaw. His grandfather, Chickasaw citizen Nelson Chigley, came to Oklahoma Territory from Mississippi with his tribe in the 1830s. Some accounts state that he settled in the Davis area in 1854. He is reported to have had a small farm in 1884, and "by energy and perseverance," he had accumulated 2,000 acres by 1890. Chigley was also a leading politician, who, in 1891, was nominated by both the National and Progressive parties for the Chickasaw Senate. He served in the Senate for six years.

WEDDING



Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Ogas

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Ogas who were married April 2, 2016 in Glencoe, N.M., just outside of Ruidoso.

The lovely bride, Ashley was a 2008 graduate of Silver High, majoring in music, and is an experienced vocalist and performer. Marshall was a 2010 homeschool graduate, 2012 RHEMA Bible School graduate, and is currently employed with Hamilton Construction at one of the largest copper mines in the world. The couple also maintain a small apartment complex in Silver City, N.M.

The newlyweds enjoyed a honeymoon in the Bahamas. They were married by Marshall's father, Pastor Mario Ogas, at Ashley's family ranch, The Perry Ranch. Ashley was escorted

by her 94-year-old great-grandfather Perry. Marshall is a descendant of original enrollees Shug Johnson Jack, and son, Walter Jack.

CONGRATULATIONS



Sophia Egge-Ogas

Sophia Egge-Ogas, along with her father, Mario Ogas (Apache), built her first set of arrows in Traditional style this spring. Sophia, 12, lives in Hanover, N.M., and is a descendant of original enrollees Shug Johnson Jack, and son, Walter Jack.



Wesley Ridenhour

Wesley Ridenhour, 16, and a Chickasaw citizen, is a junior at Western Heights High School in Oklahoma City. He is the son of James and Amy Cox, grandson of Ed Ridenhour and Linda Morton, and great-grandson of Nathaniel and the late LoEva Thomas, of Blanchard, Okla.

He is co-captain of the Western Heights Winter Guard program. The Guard, classified in the Scholastic Regional A division, placed first at the WGPO contest held at South Moore High School on February 27th. They had a score of 70.780; their last contest score was 62.99. This was their first time competing at this level.

We are so proud of you, Wesley!



Zac Smith (left)

Zac Smith was nominated and selected to be Metro Technology Center's South Oklahoma City Chamber Teacher of the Year!

He was recognized at the Excellence in Education banquet, where he received his award. The Student of the Year for Metro Tech was also one of Zac's students.

CONGRATULATIONS



Zach Charles

Zach Charles, a 6-7 forward out of McLennan Community College in Waco, Texas has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball at Eastern Kentucky University. He is a Chickasaw citizen, a descendant of Chickasaw Estella Brown Smith, of Chickasha, Okla., and the great-grandson of Bernice Smith Clark, of Okmulgee, Okla.

As a sophomore in 2015-16, he played a key role on a McLennan team that finished 28-6 and advanced to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I Championships for the first time since 1998.

He earned honorable mention All-North Texas Junior College Athletic Conference (NTJCAC) honors, playing

in all 34 games while averaging 8.0 points-per-game and ranking second on the team at 6.1 rebounds-per-game. He also led the Highlanders in blocks, averaging just under one-per-game.

"Zach Charles has one of the highest motors I have ever seen," Eastern Kentucky coach Dan McHale said. "When you couple that with his length and athleticism, you have a guy that is just scratching the surface."

Charles recorded five double-doubles during his sophomore campaign, including a 23-point, 13-rebound performance versus Eastfield College on December 2 and a 21-point, 11-rebound showing at Angelina College on December 30.

The Mesquite, Texas native averaged 14 points and 10 rebounds-per-game while playing prep ball for coach Billy Clark at John Horn High School.

"Zach is a relentless rebounder, and he has a skill-set that will fit perfectly in my up-tempo system," McHale added. "He has been well coached by Kevin Gill at McLennan, and we believe we found a diamond in the rough. He is a tremendous young man and a great addition to our program."

Charles joins Louisville transfer Dillon Avare (Lexington, Kentucky) and incoming freshmen guards Asante Gist (West Orange, New Jersey) and Parker Chitty (Columbus, Indiana) in ECU's 2016 signing class.

McHale's up-tempo Colonels ranked 18th in the country in scoring offense (80.5 points-per-game) and broke the ECU single-season field goal percentage record (49.1 percent) in 2015-16.



Brooke Orr

Brooke Orr, Frederick (OK) High School sophomore, was recently crowned Miss Frederick 2016. Brooke is the daughter of Vinson and Cheryl Orr, and the granddaughter of Joe and Brenda Orr, all of Frederick.

COMMUNITY



Ainsley and Ava Ellett

Ainsley and Ava Ellett, 10-year-old twins, and citizens of the Chickasaw Nation, participated in a multicultural night at Bledsoe Elementary School in Frisco, Texas.

The girls made and shared two traditional Chickasaw recipes of Indian molasses

bread and pumpkin cookies (found at: <https://www.chickasaw.net/our-nation/culture/foods.aspx>). They also discussed the timeline of the Chickasaw people, including the migration story with the white dog, and spoke about the Anompa language and the meanings of the Chickasaw logos on the banner they painted.

A generous donation from the Chickasaw Press made it possible for Ainsley and Ava to hand out Chickasaw Adventure Comics to the kids who visited their booth. This was such a fun way to share information about the Chickasaw Nation at this cultural event.

GRADUATIONS



Southeastern Oklahoma State University Chickasaw graduates

Congratulations to the students at the Native American Graduation Ceremony at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

From left are Southeastern President Sean Burrage, Amy Gantt, Sarrysa Eaves, Katelynn Humphries, Zac Price, Brooke Glory, Taylor Owen, Brittani Young, Stephanie Johnson, Dalton Gorrell, Jaron Benton, Dr. Bruce King, Interim Director of the Native American Institute.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Hawkins Family Reunion

DESCENDANTS OF:
LOUISE TYUBBY & CECIL GREENWOOD, BETSEY & OLIVER NEAL, SARAH & CORNELIUS ALEXANDER, ELLEN TAYLOR HESTER, MOLSIE & O.S. BAILEY, JOSIE HAWKINS are invited to attend.

OCTOBER 8, 2016

10:00 AM · 5:00 PM

POTLUCK MEAL AT NOON

CHICKASAW COMMUNITY CENTER

700 N. MISSISSIPPI
ADA, OKLAHOMA

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT:

STEVE PANIAGUA
(580) 665-2977

THANK YOU

Dear Editor,

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Chickasaw Nation for the Community Outreach Program serving Chickasaw citizens living outside its boundaries.

On Sunday, May 8 the New England Chickasaw Citizen Connection was held in Windsor, Connecticut. These meetings facilitated by Melissa Stafford, are a great way to meet fellow Chickasaws and acquaint with those we've met at previous meetings. The information provided by both Melissa as well as the guest speaker, Amy Wampler, was well presented and of great interest.

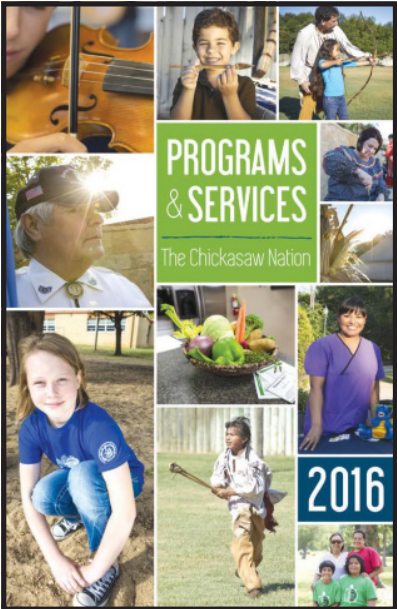
Thanks again. We look forward to the next meeting.

Paul and Susan Billing

Dear Editor,

Recently my daughter and I were contacted by a relative in need of medical attention who is an inmate at PCJC. That was on a Monday. By Wednesday our relative was almost crying with toothache pain. Our relative was told he was already signed up, and that he would receive care in a day or two, or possibly the following week. Knowing I, myself, could not wait even one day with a toothache, I called on four Chickasaw Legislators for help in receiving medical care for a Chickasaw citizen. With help from Toby Perkins and Katie Case, our relative did receive medical care with four teeth extracted. Many thanks to Mr. Perkins and Ms. Case for their help. We appreciate their timely support and resolution in this matter. They have my vote anytime.

Yakoke
Choctaw Chickasaw Grandma
Lula, Okla.



Programs & Services Directory available

The 2016 Programs & Services Directory is now available for download at Chickasaw.net/servicedirectory. Hard copies will soon be mailed directly to all Chickasaw citizens. The Programs & Services Directory contains information about all tribal programs and services. Inside the directory are program descriptions, contact information and office locations.

Young Chickasaw ladies may apply now for 2016-17 Princess Pageant



2015-2016 Chickasaw Princess Raechell Meely, Little Miss Chickasaw Lauren Key and Chickasaw Junior Princess Lauren John at the Chickasaw Nation Capitol in Tishomingo, Oklahoma.

Applications are now available for the 2016-2017 Chickasaw Princess, Chickasaw Jr. Princess and Little Miss Chickasaw 2016-2017 Pageant

Chickasaw Princesses serve and represent the Chickasaw Nation as ambassadors at a variety of events and activities throughout the year.

Following are the requirements to serve as Chickasaw royalty:

- Age 17-25 to apply for Chickasaw Princess; age 12-16 for

Chickasaw Jr. Princess; age 7-11 for Little Miss Chickasaw.

- Candidates must reside within the 13-county region of the Chickasaw Nation, be at least one-quarter Chickasaw and a registered citizen of the Chickasaw Nation.
- Must currently be enrolled in school, submit a recent grade report, have a minimum GPA of 2.0 and must be in good standing with the school.
- In addition to the application, candidates must also include a

copy of their CDIB and citizenship cards, a 5x7 photo (black and white or color), and three references (who are not related to the candidate).

Application deadline is Friday, Aug. 26.

Applications are available at www.Chickasaw.net/youth and at Chickasaw Nation Youth Services, 231 Seabrook Rd, Ada, Oklahoma.

For more information, contact Mary Hartley, at (580) 310-9539 or (580) 272-7710.

Ishki’ibaa-achi (Paint with Mom) art class June 11 in Ada, Sulphur

Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities introduces Ishki’ ibaa-aabi (Paint with Mom) art class, 10 a.m. through noon or 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, June 11. The classes will be hosted at the Arts

& Humanities building, 201 N. Broadway, Ada, and the ARTesian Gallery & Studios, 100 W. Muskogee Ave., Sulphur.

This is a perfect time for moms and children to create special Fa-

ther’s Day gifts Dad will treasure! Youth ages 6-12 accompanied by parent or guardian are invited.

For more information, call (580) 272-5520.

BATES | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

some celebrity is doing or who they are dating. Marines just eat that stuff up.”

Capt. Bates left active duty service in 2013. His obligation to the ready reserves (service members who can be recalled into active duty in emergencies) ending in the fall of 2015. He chose to leave the Marine Corps after he had accomplished the goals he had set out for himself, both at the Naval Academy and with the Marines.

He views his military career with the utmost pride.

“I never got out because I didn’t like going to work,” he said. “I did a lot of deployments in a compressed timeline. It took a serious toll on my body. I think I put a lot more years on my knees and back. The deployments also put a lot of stress on my family. It was just time to transition out.”

While in the reserves, Capt. Bates earned at Master’s of Business Administration from The Mendoza College of Business, Notre Dame University. He now works in investment management for Goldman Sachs in Dallas.

Tribe Honors its Veterans

Capt. Bates served with many Native Americans in the Marine Corps. He is proud of his culture and spoke of it often with others. One of the few casualties under his command was a fellow Indian, a Navajo Marine from Arizona.

“He was so incredibly proud of his heritage, of the warrior spirit,” Capt. Bates said. “He felt he was upholding the traditions of his tribal heritage. We had great conversations.

With a rich martial history, Native Americans continue to serve in disproportionate numbers. Per capita, more Native Americans serve more than any other ethnic group. Tribal cultures continue to honor and cherish their warriors.

In May of last year, the Chickasaw Nation introduced the Chickasaw Warrior Society. The society is comprised of veterans and active duty military members with Chickasaw heritage. A 13,000 square-foot Veterans Lodge is being built for the society on the campus of the Chickasaw Nation

Medical Center in Ada.

“It fills me with pride that the Chickasaw Nation recognizes the service and sacrifices of its citizens,” Capt. Bates said. “The tribe is taking a strong stance to make sure those who serve are taken care of beyond their service.

“There is a generation of men and women who are coming back from some complex and complicated conflicts who need help, who deserve that help. It is a great thing that the tribe is making services accessible to its military service members.”



At the Chickasaw Nation's Veterans Conference at WinStar World Casino in May, 2015, plans for a Veteran's Lodge and Warrior Society were announced by Gov. Bill Anoatubby.

The Warrior Society will be a social organization for active-duty military and veterans of Chickasaw heritage. It is planned to allow for interaction between Chickasaws who share a common bond of participating in service to their country.

Each veteran has a story, and many have overcome challenges that may be faced by comrades. Helping peers through sharing of experiences is one goal of the social gatherings, which are planned to occur in regions around the United States, similar to Chickasaw Community Council gatherings.

For more information, email Warrior.Society@Chickasaw.net or call Chickasaw Nation Social Services at (580) 436-7246.

CONTRIBUTED BY KC Cole, Public Affairs.



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APRIL 2016 LEGISLATIVE MINUTES

CHICKASAW NATION TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION
Legislature Building
Ada, Oklahoma
April 15, 2016

AGENDA ITEM #1 CALL MEETING TO ORDER
Chairperson Pro Tempore Nancy Elliott called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. She appointed Mr. Scott Wood to serve as Secretary Pro Tempore.

AGENDA ITEM #2 ROLL CALL
Members present: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods
Members absent: Katie Case, Dean McManus, David Woerz, Connie Barker
Staff present: Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary; Harold Stick, Sergeant-At-Arms; Robert Cheadle, Legislative Counsel
Guests present: Dana Lance, Michael L. Wingo, Judy Foster

AGENDA ITEM #3 INVOCATION
Invocation was given by Ms. Green.

AGENDA ITEM #4 READING OF MINUTES - March 18, 2016
A motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Mrs. Alexander to approve the minutes of March 18, 2016.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods - 9 yes votes
The motion to approve the minutes of March 18, 2016 carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #5 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
There was no unfinished business.

AGENDA ITEM #6: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
(A) FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Toby Perkins
General Resolution Number 33-030, Approval of Development Budget Amendment Terral Casino
This resolution approves an amendment to the Development Budget for the Terral Casino, Project Number 1108-TER-GAM-C in the amount of \$22,969,897.00.
Through the Chickasaw Nation Department of Commerce strategic planning sessions an objective was set to explore market expansion within the boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation. Multiple sites were identified and vetted to determine suitability. Market assessments along with return on investment models were conducted for scale and feasibility with favorable outcomes for the outlined scope.
The site chosen for this prospect creates an opportunity for new customer acquisition and overall growth in patronage of Chickasaw Nation properties. By providing a sizeable offering and an alternative to other operations for the northwestern Texas population an additional revenue stream will be created to add to Chickasaw Nation net profits. An addition of over 200 new jobs will be created providing opportunity for career advancements as well new position offerings to the surrounding communities.
This proposal involves the design, engineering, and construction of a new 37,200 square feet gaming casino. The building will house approximately 630 new games, with the associated back of house support. In addition to the gaming floor, there will be seating for 60 in the restaurant. The center bar has 28 seats with six being bar top games. Additionally there will be 776 total parking spaces and improvements to the existing county road.

A motion was made by Mr. Perkins and seconded by Ms. Hammond to approve GR33-030.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods - 9 yes votes
The motion to approve GR33-030 carried unanimously.
Mr. Perkins concluded his report.

(B) HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Dean McManus
Ms. Shana Hammond served as Committee Chair Pro Tempore in Ms. McManus' absence.
General Resolution Number 33-025, Gubernatorial Appointment to the Board of Directors of Chickasaw Nation Bank Holding Company (Matthew Chesnut)
This resolution approves Governor Bill Anoatubby's appointment of Mr. Matthew Chesnut to the Board of Directors of the Chickasaw Nation Bank Holding Company. Mr. Chesnut will fill the unexpired term resulting from Dr. Judy Goforth Parker's resignation from the Board. The terms of office of each board member shall be determined by the Bank Charter.

A motion was made by Mrs. Alexander and seconded by Mr. Perkins to approve GR33-025.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods - 9 yes votes
The motion to approve GR33-025 carried unanimously.

General Resolution Number 33-026, Gubernatorial Appointment to the Board of Directors of the Chickasaw Historical Society (Mr. Wayne Edgar)
This resolution approves Governor Bill Anoatubby's appointment of Mr. Wayne Edgar to the board of directors of the Chickasaw Historical Society. Mr. Edgar will fill a vacant 3-year term of office ending on September 30, 2017.
A motion was made by Mrs. Alexander and seconded by Mr. Colbert to approve GR33-026.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods - 9 yes votes
The motion to approve GR33-026 carried unanimously.

General Resolution Number 33-027, Gubernatorial Appointment to the Board of Directors of the Chickasaw Historical Society (Mr. Wilson Seawright)

This resolution approves Governor Bill Anoatubby's appointment of Mr. Wilson Seawright to the board of directors of the Chickasaw Historical Society. Mr. Seawright will fill a vacant 3-year term of office ending on September 30, 2017.
A motion was made by Ms. Hammond and seconded by Mrs. Alexander to approve GR33-027.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods - 9 yes votes
The motion to approve GR33-027 carried unanimously.

General Resolution Number 33-028, Gubernatorial Appointment to the Board of Directors of the Chickasaw Historical Society (Mr. Doug Strickland)

This resolution approves Governor Bill Anoatubby's appointment of Mr. Doug Strickland to the board of directors of the Chickasaw Historical Society. Mr. Strickland will fill a vacant 3-year term of office ending on September 30, 2017.
A motion was made by Mr. Perkins and seconded by Mrs. Alexander to approve GR33-028.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods - 9 yes votes
The motion to approve GR33-028 carried unanimously.

General Resolution Number 33-029, Gubernatorial Appointment to the Board of Directors of the Chickasaw Historical Society (Mr. Timothy Baugh)
This resolution approves Governor Bill Anoatubby's appointment of Mr. Timothy Baugh to the board of directors of the Chickasaw Historical Society. Mr. Baugh will fill a vacant 3-year term of office ending on September 30, 2017.
A motion was made by Mrs. Alexander and seconded by Mr. Perkins to approve GR33-029.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods - 9 yes votes
The motion to approve GR33-029 carried unanimously.
Ms. Hammond concluded her report.

(C) LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Linda Briggs
General Resolution Number 33-031, Rescind and Replace GR28-043 Utility Easement in McClain County
This resolution rescinds GR28-043 and replaces it to correct legal description for a utility easement to service the facility at Newcastle Gaming, granted to Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company, its successors and assigns, the right, privilege and authority to enter upon and install, erect, operate, maintain, and reconstruct underground and/or above ground a system of conduits, wires, cables, vaults, junction boxes, switches, fuses, transformers, service connection boxes and other fixtures for the transmission and distribution of electrical current and communication messages, including the right of ingress and egress to and from said system across adjoining lands of Grantor, upon and across the real property and premises in McClain County, State of Oklahoma. Grantor further covenants and agrees that no building or other structure shall ever be erected nor shall any excavation or other removal of soil, so as to change the grade of terrain, be accomplished by Grantor, its heirs or assigns, within the above described easement area unless the written consent of the Grantee is first obtained. Grantor further acknowledges the requirements of 63 Okla. Stat. § 142.1et sq. (2003) (The "One-Call Statute"). The rights and privileges above granted to continue so long as same are used or needed for the transmission and distribution of electric current or communication messages; but should the Grantee remove its property from the premises and abandon the right of way herein granted, then the rights granted in this easement shall terminate. The property location is the Newcastle Gaming Tract in McClain County, Oklahoma. It is to be utilized as utility service easement to Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company.
A motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Mr. Colbert to approve GR33-031.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods - 9 yes votes
The motion to approve GR33-031 carried unanimously.

General Resolution Number 33-032, Approving an Oil and Gas Lease in Coal County In favor of Canyon Creek Energy II, LLC

APRIL 2016 MINUTES CONT'D

This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's approving an Oil and Gas Lease in Coal County, Oklahoma, containing 4.79 acres more or less.
A motion was made by Ms. Briggs and second by Ms. Green to approve GR33-032.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods - 9 yes votes
The motion to approve GR33-032 carried unanimously.
Ms. Briggs concluded her report.

AGENDA ITEM #7 NEW BUSINESS (Comments from Citizens)
There was no new business to discuss or comments from citizens.

AGENDA ITEM #8 ADJOURNMENT
The Legislative Session adjourned at 9:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Wood, Secretary Pro Tempore
Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislature

Prepared by:
Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary
Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislature

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

CHICKASAW NATION TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
Legislative Session
Legislature Building
Ada, Oklahoma
May 20, 2016

AGENDA ITEM #1 CALL MEETING TO ORDER
AGENDA ITEM #2 ROLL CALL
AGENDA ITEM #3 INVOCATION
AGENDA ITEM #4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 15, 2016
AGENDA ITEM #5 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
AGENDA ITEM #6 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
(A) HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Dean McManus
GR33-033 Assurances for the Indian Community Development Block Grant Program U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Southern Plains Office of Native American Programs
(B) LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Linda Briggs
GR33-035 Authorization for Acquisition of Real Property in Carter County
GR33-036 Authorization for Acquisition of Real Property in Pontotoc County
AGENDA ITEM #7 NEW BUSINESS (Comments from Citizens)
AGENDA ITEM #8 ADJOURNMENT

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Land Development Committee • May 9, 2016
Present: Beth Alexander, Tim Colbert, Steve Woods, Connie Barker, Mary Jo Green, Linda Briggs, David Woerz
Human Resources Committee • May 9, 2016
Present: Katie Case, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Connie Barker, Nancy Elliott
Rules of Order Ad Hoc Committee • May 9, 2016
Present: Beth Alexander, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, Connie Barker
Legislative Committee • May 9, 2016
Present: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Connie Barker, Tim Colbert, Dean McManus, Steve Woods
Legislative Committee • May 16, 2016
Present: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Connie Barker
Absent: Tim Colbert, Dean McManus, Steve Woods
Finance Committee • May 16 2016
Present: Connie Barker, Nancy Elliott, Toby Perkins, Linda Briggs, David Woerz
Absent: Tim Colbert, Steve Woods
Committee of the Whole • May 16, 2016
Present: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Connie Barker
Absent: Tim Colbert, Dean McManus, Steve Woods

MAY 2016 RESOLUTIONS

CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
General Resolution Number 33-033
Assurances for the Indian Community Development Block Grant Program
U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Southern Plains
Office of Native American Programs

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article VII, Sections 4 and 7 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature shall enact rules and regulations pertaining to the Chickasaw Nation, and shall make decisions pertaining to the acquisition, leasing, disposition and management of real property subject to federal law, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Governor shall perform all duties appertaining to the office of Chief Executive. He shall sign official papers on behalf of the Nation, and

WHEREAS, the Chickasaw Nation has been determined to be eligible by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to submit an application for a grant up to the amount of \$800,000 to fund certain eligible Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) program activities, and

WHEREAS, the grant program awards maximum points for a match of 25 percent (25%) of the total project cost to be furnished by the Chickasaw Nation as leveraging.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature hereby authorizes and approves the Chickasaw Nation's application for an Indian Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$800,000 for a community facility by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the establishment of a Chickasaw Nation Wellness Center to be located in Ada, Pontotoc County, Oklahoma.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chickasaw Nation, in regard to such application, hereby makes the following assurances:

MAY 2016 RESOLUTIONS

I. Prior to submission of the application, the Chickasaw Nation has published notices for the public hearing and followed traditional means of citizen involvement which may have included the following assurances:

- a. furnished citizens information concerning amounts of funds available and range of activities that may be undertaken;
- b. held one meeting on community development needs, at a time allowing participation by citizens;
- c. developed and posted the community development needs, at a time allowing participation by citizens; and
- d. afforded citizens an opportunity to review and comment on the Tribe's performance under active Community Development Block Grants.

II. Additionally, the Chickasaw Nation has;

- a. considered all comments and views expressed by the tribal citizens and has modified its application as deemed appropriate; and
- b. made the modified application available to citizens.

III. Future ICDGB projects will be directed to low and moderate income persons as required.

IV. No part of Paragraph II shall be construed to restrict the responsibility and authority of the Chickasaw Nation for the development of the application and execution of its ICDBG Program.

V. The new Chickasaw Nation Wellness Center will be constructed on land provided by the Chickasaw Nation in Ada, Pontotoc County, Oklahoma.

VI. The Chickasaw Nation commits the 25% cash required to fund the construction of the Chickasaw Nation Wellness Center project that has a current cost estimate of \$9,982,215 for a cash commitment of \$2,495,554.00 provided in leveraged funds, \$7,486,661 provided in non-leveraged additional tribal funds and \$120,000 for operation and maintenance of the facility with such being provided annually through an operational budget.

VII. The Chickasaw Nation has devised and approved an operation and maintenance plan.

VIII. The Chickasaw Nation adheres to the federal program requirements pertaining to Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, set forth in 2 CFR part 200.

IX. The Chickasaw Nation Wellness Center project is included in a comprehensive plan, and active participation in tribal planning has occurred.

Executed in regular session of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature, meeting at Ada, Oklahoma, on May 20, 2016, by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

Explanation: This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's application for an Indian Community Development Block Grant for a community facility funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, for the establishment of a Chickasaw Nation Wellness Center, located in Ada, Pontotoc County, Oklahoma. This resolution also commits the 25% cash required to fund the construction of the Chickasaw Nation Wellness Center.

Presented By: Human Resources Committee

CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
General Resolution Number 33-035
Authorization for Acquisition of Real Property in Carter County

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article VII, Sections 4 and 7 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature shall enact rules and regulations pertaining to the Chickasaw Nation, and shall make decisions pertaining to the acquisition, leasing, disposition and management of real property, subject to federal law, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Governor shall perform all duties appertaining to the office of Chief Executive. He shall sign official papers on behalf of the Nation, and

WHEREAS, the Land Development Committee recommends the acquisition of real property in Ardmore, Carter County, Oklahoma for addition to the Chickasaw Nation's Child Development Center described as follows:

The East 15 feet of Lot 16, and the East 15 feet of Lot 41; and all of Lots 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48 and the South 78.0 feet of Lots 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54 and 57, AND All of the alley adjacent to the above described Lots, as vacated by District Court Case C - 79 - 438, District Court Carter County, Oklahoma; AND All that part of the North 30 feet of Locust Street, as vacated by District Court Case C - 79 - 438, District Court of Carter County, Oklahoma, which lies adjacent to the East 15 feet of Lot 41 and Lots 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54 and 57; All in Block 30 of Revised Chickasaw Heights Addition to the City of Ardmore, Carter County, Oklahoma, according to the recorded plat thereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Chickasaw Tribal Legislature hereby authorizes and approves the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, or his designee, to negotiate the acquisition and conclude a Contract for the above described tract of land. Such contract shall be for a price not to exceed the Market Value Price, in accordance with the Constitution and Laws of the Chickasaw Nation and those Rules and Regulations of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the United States Department of the Interior, as they may apply to such acquisition. The Governor is authorized to request the Bureau of Indian Affairs to place the property U.S.A. in Trust for the Chickasaw Nation after acquisition, if such action is advantageous.

Executed in regular session of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature, meeting at Ada, Oklahoma, on May 20, 2016, by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

Explanation: This Resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's request to acquire real property in Ardmore, Carter County, Oklahoma, for addition to the Chickasaw Nation's Child Development Center, described below:

The East 15 feet of Lot 16, and the East 15 feet of Lot 41; and all of Lots 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48 and the South 78.0 feet of Lots 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54 and 57, AND All of the alley adjacent to the above described Lots, as vacated by District Court Case C - 79 - 438, District Court Carter County, Oklahoma; AND All that part of the North 30 feet of Locust Street, as vacated by District Court Case C - 79 - 438, District Court of Carter County, Oklahoma, which lies adjacent to the East 15 feet of Lot 41 and Lots 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54 and 57; All in Block 30 of Revised Chickasaw Heights Addition to the City of Ardmore, Carter County, Oklahoma, according to the recorded plat thereof.

Property Location: 2417 Chickasaw Boulevard and Maple Street, Ardmore, Oklahoma
Use: For addition to the Chickasaw Nation's Child Development Center
Purpose: Self-determination
Presented by: Land Development Committee

CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
General Resolution Number 33-036
Authorization for Acquisition of Real Property in Pontotoc County

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article VII, Sections 4 and 7 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature shall enact rules and regulations pertaining to the Chickasaw Nation, and shall make decisions pertaining to the acquisition, leasing, disposition and management of real property, subject to federal law, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Governor shall perform all duties appertaining to the office of Chief Executive. He shall sign official papers on behalf of the Nation, and

WHEREAS, the Land Development Committee recommends the acquisition of real property in Ada, Pontotoc County, Oklahoma for Chickasaw Nation office space described as follows:

A part of the E/2 of NW/4 of NW/4 of Section 35, Township 4 North, Range 6 East, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point on the North boundary line of the E/2 of NW/4 of NW/4 of said Section 35, said point being 165 feet West of the Northeast corner of said subdivision; thence South and parallel with the East boundary line of said subdivision, a distance of 440.00 feet; thence East a distance of 130.00 feet; thence North and parallel with the East boundary line of said subdivision a distance of 440.00 feet to a point on the North boundary line of said subdivision; thence West along said North line a distance of 130.00 feet to the point of beginning, containing 1.31 acres, more or less.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Chickasaw Tribal Legislature hereby authorizes and approves the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, or his designee, to negotiate the acquisition and conclude a Contract for the above described tract of land. Such contract shall be for a price not to exceed the Market Value Price, in accordance with the Constitution and Laws of the Chickasaw Nation and those Rules and Regulations of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the United States Department of the Interior, as they may apply to such acquisition. The Governor is authorized to request the Bureau of Indian Affairs to place the property U.S.A. in Trust for the Chickasaw Nation after acquisition, if such action is advantageous.

Executed in regular session of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature, meeting at Ada, Oklahoma, on May 20, 2016, by a vote of 10 ayes, 1 nays and 0 abstentions.

Explanation: This Resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's request to acquire real property in Ada, Pontotoc County, Oklahoma, for Chickasaw Nation office space, described below:

A part of the E/2 of NW/4 of NW/4 of Section 35, Township 4 North, Range 6 East, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point on the North boundary line of the E/2 of NW/4 of NW/4 of said Section 35, said point being 165 feet West of the Northeast corner of said subdivision; thence South and parallel with the East boundary line of said subdivision, a distance of 440.00 feet; thence East a distance of 130.00 feet; thence North and parallel with the East boundary line of said subdivision a distance of 440.00 feet to a point on the North boundary line of said subdivision; thence West along said North line a distance of 130.00 feet to the point of beginning, containing 1.31 acres, more or less.

Property Location: 2021 Arlington, Ada, Oklahoma
Use: For Chickasaw Nation office space
Purpose: Self-determination
Presented by: Land Development Committee

Chickasaw Nation Tribal Election Filing Period

The Chickasaw Nation Election Commission has announced filing period opens June 6 and continues through June 8, 2016 for the 2016 General Elections.

Candidates must file in the election secretary's office, located in the Government Services building, 2015 Lonnie Abbott Industrial Boulevard, Ada, Okla.

Candidates may file between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Legislative seats to be filled are, Seat 5 of Pontotoc District; Seat 3 of Pickens District; Seat 1 of Panola District; Seat 2 of the Tishomingo District. Seat 1 of the Chickasaw Nation Supreme Court is also up for election this year.

Legislative candidates must be registered Chickasaw voters at least 25 years of age, residents of the Chickasaw Nation for at least one year and of their respective district for at least six months immediately preceding the election. Legislators must remain residents of their elected district during the tenure of their office. Term of office is three years. Filing fees are \$500.

A judicial candidate must be a registered voter of the Chickasaw Nation at least 30 years of age. Judges must be residents of the Chickasaw Nation during their three-year term of office. Filing fees are \$500.

Candidates must bring verification of physical and mailing address, such as a utility bill or homestead exemption, filing fee and upon filing must complete a financial disclosure statement. Statements are also due at the end of every month during the candidate's active campaign period. Candidates will receive an electoral packet containing election rules and regulations, the Chickasaw Constitution, financial disclosure forms, biography form for the Chickasaw Times, and watcher form. Candidates must not have been convicted of a felony. Background checks are conducted on all candidates.

Primary election is July 26 and run-off election is August 30, if applicable.

For further assistance, please contact Rita Loder, election secretary toll free at 1-888-661-0137.

THE CHICKASAW NATION TRIBAL ELECTION 2016 PRIMARY ELECTION SCHEDULE

June 6-8:
Candidate filing period (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Election Secretary's office)

June 10:
Challenge to Candidacy ends at 5 p.m.

June 13:
Drawing for position on the ballot (1:30 p.m. at the Election Secretary's office)
Candidates may pick up print-outs & USB flash drive.

June 13:
Last day to submit photo & biography to "Chickasaw Times" (by 4:00 pm)
Press release for candidates (news/media)

June 23:
Ballots mailed to voters who reside out of the contiguous 48 states

July 5:
Voter registration closes.

July 6:
After 12 p.m. candidates may pick up updated printouts & USB flash drive.

July 7:
Ballots mailed to ALL qualified voters.

July 21:
Last day to appoint a watcher.

July 26:
2016 Primary Election (last day to return ballots; no later than 10:30 a.m.)
Ballot tabulation begins @ 11 a.m.
Unofficial results posted immediately
Press Release made to public.

July 26:
Voter registration re-opens, if no run-off election.

July 29:
Recount period ends.

October 3:
(October 1 falls on a Saturday.)
Oath of Office Ceremony (11:00 a.m.)

THE CHICKASAW NATION 2016 RUN-OFF ELECTION SCHEDULE (IF NEEDED)

August 1:
Candidates may pick up print-outs & USB flash drive (after 12:00 p.m.)

August 11:
Ballots mailed to ALL qualified voters.

August 25:
Last day to appoint a watcher for the run-off election.

August 30:
2016 Run-Off Election (last day to return ballots; no later than 10:30 a.m.)
Ballot tabulation begins @ 11 a.m.
Unofficial results posted immediately
Press Release made to public.
Voter registration re-opens

September 2:
Recount period ends.

October 3:
(October 1 falls on a Saturday.)
Oath of Office ceremony (11:00 a.m.)

'Beauty in Strength'

Dynamic Women’s Conference features Chickasaw innovators, difference makers

SULPHUR, Okla. – Chickasaw women from across the country gathered April 14-15 at the Artesian Hotel and Spa to take part in the 2016 Chickasaw Nation Dynamic Women’s Conference.

Against an exquisitely decorated backdrop, highlighting the theme “Beauty in Strength” and featuring vibrant butterfly art, attendees learned valuable lessons on topics ranging from resilience to building strong communities.

Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities executive officer Laura Stewart said “Beauty in Strength” described Chickasaw women, who are strong in many unique ways.

“The conference presentations help women see themselves as being those strong people and how we can help our families, communities and Chickasaw citizens,” Mrs. Stewart said.

Participants from across the U.S. flock to the annual conference to learn, share and celebrate with other Chickasaw women.

“Women come from all over the country to have a type of reunion,” Mrs. Stewart said. “Coming together, visiting and supporting one another.”

Many ladies who attend the conference each year make it a family affair, with mothers, daughters, nieces and aunts attending as a group.

Established in 2006 by Gov. Bill Anoatubby as a way to honor and recognize the dynamic women of the Chickasaw Nation, the event has grown from an evening forum to a two-day conference. It now includes an art show, “Art of the Chickasaw Women.”



The 2016 Dynamic Women of the Chickasaw Nation Conference panel, from left, Chickasaw citizens Jeraldine Brown, elder and World War II veteran, Dr. Kayla Lewis, Lisanne Anderson, journalist, and Merry Monroe, educator. The event was conducted April 14 and 15 at the Artesian Hotel and Spa, Sulphur. Photo by Jacquelyn Sparks.

“We are a matrilineal society, and women have made significant contributions to the life ways of the Chickasaw people,” Chickasaw Nation Cultural Tourism executive officer Lona Barrick said. “We can talk about our triumphs and our hardships. It helps to strengthen our Chickasaw families, our citizens, our resolve and our place in the community. We truly appreciate Gov. Anoatubby for recognizing dynamic Chickasaw women. It is wonderful to have this opportunity.”

During the conference Native artists, scholars, physicians, elders and authors were featured in panel discussions and sessions on topics related to the Chickasaw experience and each panelist’s personal endeavors.

Conference sessions on topics ranging from utilizing social media to overcome barriers, to highlighting the connection of food sources and tribal sovereignty were featured.

Mary Ruth Barnes, 2015 Dynamic Woman of the Year, served

as keynote speaker for the conference.

The exhibit “Art of the Chickasaw Woman” at the ARTesian Gallery and Studios, opened, showcased a variety of media from Chickasaw artists including Lisa Hudson, Ellen Etzler, Heather Bell Richardson, Brenda Kingery, Beverly Callahan, Misti Butler and others.

For more information, visit www.chickasaw.net.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

Gon. Anoatubby, Seawright honored



Gov. Bill Anoatubby and fellow Chickasaw citizen Faithlyn Seawright were honored at the Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women Awards Banquet May 5 in Durant, Okla. Gov. Anoatubby received the Helen Chupco Leadership Award for Outstanding American Indian Elected Official. Miss Seawright received the Nancy Tsoodle Achievement Award for Outstanding American Indian Female Student.

‘Brighten Your Subjects’ workshop June 15-16

The Chickasaw Nation Fine Arts Dept. will host a “Brighten Your Subjects” Teacher Workshop from 9 a.m. through 4:30 p.m., June 15-16. Teachers participating in the two-day workshop will work with the Chickasaw Nation Fine Arts and Performing Arts Departments to increase general subject knowledge, while exploring and experiencing a variety of strategies for integrating art into the classroom.

Attendees will collaborate, network and experience arts integration while earning a certificate of staff development upon completion. Class size is limited to 20 participants.

The workshop will take place at the Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities building in the art classroom, 201 N. Broadway in Ada.

The cost of the workshop is \$25, which includes supplies and lunch for both days.

To register, contact Arts & Humanities at (580) 272-5520, gwen.postoak@chickasaw.net or shanon.shaw@chickasaw.net.

Junior Native Explorers trek to NW Oklahoma ‘dinosaur digs’

Five members of the Chickasaw Junior Explorers joined world-renowned paleologists in Kenton, Oklahoma to visit famous dinosaur dig sites. The team of pale-

learning about astronomy, nature and your heritage,” said Jr. Native Explorer, Mara Fields.

The expedition provided Jr. Explorers with an opportunity to experience and learn about history and the world outside of a traditional classroom environment. Using a hands-on approach, the Jr. Native Explorers can have an once-in-a-lifetime experience by working side-by-side with professional paleontologists. “I feel as though the

Junior Native Explorers Program changes the way that each student looks at the world around them,” said Sara Hofferber, Jr. Native Explorer mentor. “It encourages them to use their education to not only better lives, but to also protect and love nature.”

Paleologists on the expedition included. Dr. Kent Smith, Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences; Dr. Nicholas Czaplewski and Dr. Richard Cifelli, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History; Dr. Mathew Wedel, College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific, Pomona, California.

Native Explorers

Jr. Explorers is a program for Native American youth in grades K-12. Native Explorers has partnered with scientists and educators at OSU-Center for Health Sciences in Tulsa, OK; the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History in Norman, OK; and the Chickasaw Nation in an effort to broaden its range of impact and further increase the number of Native Americans that study the sciences and/or medicine. Jr. Explorers participate in activities that introduce science in an exciting way aimed at sparking the students’ interest in the scientific process and encouraging them to explore the world around them.



Left to right (back row) Jeff Hargrave, Jordan Fields, Richard (Dylan) Poe, Colton Bird, Dr. Nick Czaplewski, Kresta Lofton and Dr. Kent Smith. (Front Row) Germaine Fields, Mara Fields and Britany Lofton standing on the three corners marker, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Colorado.

ontologists and the Jr. Native Explorer, Colton Bird, Vanoss, Oklahoma; Jordan and Mara Fields, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Britany Lofton, Sulphur, Oklahoma and Dylan Poe, Ardmore, Oklahoma explored the outside classroom on this rugged expedition.

The group visited famous dinosaur sites, footprints of the both Cretaceous and Jurassic ages, originally discovered by University of Oklahoma, paleontologist, Dr. J. Willis Stovall. From 1932-1942, he and a team extracted thousands of fossilized bones from the Oklahoma soil. The first bones of what would become known as Saurophaganax, came from these digs.

The explorers visited a rock shelter where vertebrate fossil sites of Ice Age mammals such as camels, horses and mammoths were discovered. Students also viewed the regions ancient rock art.

In addition to learning about the region’s ancient and modern plants and animals, each participant created a cultural story to share with the group. Participants were taught camping techniques such as creating a tent, cooking with charcoal and how to identify local plants that have medicinal uses for both ancient and modern indigenous people.

“It’s amazing when you can test your limits while simultaneously

‘Sportacus’ revs up Chickasaw kids for activity

ADA, Okla. - Sportacus, the athletic hero from the children’s television show “LazyTown,” visited Ada recently to spend the day at local child care centers and schools. His goal was to teach the importance of an active lifestyle as part of the 2016 Kids Heart Challenge.

The blue-clad action man entered the stage walking on his hands and doing flips. He then prompted four separate groups of children to do jumping jacks, play imaginary tennis, jump an imaginary rope, stretch and eat more “sports candy” (apples and carrots).

“We use our imagination and we try,” Sportacus (performed by James Royce Edwards) told the students. “We don’t have to be perfect, but we have to try and that’s what a superhero does.”

The event gave students many opportunities to be active. Children from the Chickasaw Nation Child Development Center, Chickasaw Nation Head Start and Chickasaw Nation School-Age After School Program all aided Sportacus in “setting a new energy record” with their involvement. Sportacus also visited Homer Elementary School, a public school in Ada.

Each new activity performed as



Chickasaw Nation Under Secretary of Tribal and Community Health Chris Anoatubby and Sportacus flex their muscles with students from the Chickasaw Nation Child Development Center. Mr. Anoatubby serves as chair of this year’s Central Oklahoma Heart Walk. Sportacus visited Ada in part to promote the April 9 event.

a group earned another rank on Sportacus’ record-setting sports challenge meter. When the meter was filled, students celebrated by dancing. Also, once the sports challenge meter was filled, the students participated in an obstacle course.

Sportacus’ visit was a part of the American Heart Association’s Central Oklahoma Heart Walk

and its goals of building healthier lives and promoting cardiovascular health.

The walk was April 9 at Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark in Oklahoma City. This year’s chair was Chris Anoatubby, Under Secretary of Tribal and Community Health. Walkers and contributors raised over \$1 million.

Chickasaw Nation, Feed the Children



Representatives from the Chickasaw Foundation and Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services met with Feed the Children’s J.C. Watts on May 17 to discuss current partnerships at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center. From left are Under Secretary of Support & Programs at the Medical Center Marty Wofford; Nutrition Services Administration, Katrina Lewis; Chickasaw Foundation Executive Assistant Tracie Carter; Chickasaw Foundation Chief Executive Officer Johnna R. Walker; Nutrition Services Director Melinda Newport; Chickasaw Nation Community Dietitian Adrienne Jacobs; Feed the Children President and Chief Executive Officer J.C. Watts Jr.; Nutrition Services Deputy Director Joy Standridge; Feed the Children Senior Vice President of Domestic Operations and Programs Gary Sloan; and Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services Executive Director Rebecca Chandler.

Tribe’s preferred vendor program boosts Chickasaw entrepreneurs

The Chickasaw Nation founded the Preferred Vendor Program (PVP) in November 2008. Its stated purpose was to increase the business opportunities for qualified Chickasaw citizen-owned business enterprises, plus the businesses of other qualified minorities. According to PVP officials, the Preferred Vendor Program recognizes and supports Chickasaw Nation citizens’ entrepreneurial efforts.

All departments of the Chickasaw Nation have been encouraged to take the steps necessary to provide a fair share of the economic opportunities to these businesses when they become available through Chickasaw Nation activities and projects.

In order to participate in the program, a business must be at least 51 percent owned, controlled and operated by Chicka-

erans.

If the business is not Chickasaw or other Native American-owned, it must be validated by a recognized third-party organization or agency, such as specialized national business organizations or local, state or national government agencies.

In addition to consideration for Chickasaw Nation commercial projects, preferred vendors are also listed on the Chickasaw Nation Business Registry, which Chickasaw citizens use to trade with other Chickasaw citizens.

Personalized assistance in growing a preferred vendor’s business is provided by the Chickasaw Small Business Development Center, as well.

Chickasaw citizen Jacky Pettigrew’s Arrowhead Guttering and Arrowhead Construction companies participate in the Chickasaw Nation Preferred Vendor Program. Mr. Pettigrew has more than 20 years of experience in the construction business, from general construction to specialized, EPA-certified air filter installation in electricity-generating power plants.

Mr. Pettigrew returned to Ada due to his mother’s serious illness and stayed to be with his father, three grown daughters, and his two sisters, rather than being away for much of each year.



Employees of Jacky Pettigrew’s Arrowhead Guttering install guttering at an Ada-area residence.

saw citizens, non-Chickasaw Native American citizens, African-Asian- or Hispanic-American citizens, women or disabled vet-



JACKY PETTIGREW

Searching for a means of making a living locally, he found an opportunity in guttering installation and steel erection. Experienced in those fields, he founded Arrowhead Construction. The company builds up to casino-sized steel buildings and small to 30’x 40’ structures. Arrowhead Guttering builds and installs guttering on both new and renovation projects for homes and commercial buildings.

While bidding on jobs, Mr. Pettigrew heard about the Chickasaw Nation Preferred Vendor Program, applied and met the qualifications. He bids on both guttering and steel erection jobs.

“The application was not hard or complicated,” he said. “I’ve filled out longer applications for construction jobs.”

Interested business owners can find and complete a preferred vendor application online at <http://www.chickasawbusiness-registry.com/JSP/mvappl.jsp>.

CONTRIBUTED BY Tom Bailey, Public Affairs.

Postpartem challenge Women often face depression, anxiety following childbirth

Three years ago, Lorie Carmichael experienced the happiest day of her life. She gave birth to a healthy, beautiful little girl named Olivia. With her husband, Eric, she expected to spend the first few weeks with Olivia as a family before returning to work.

She could have never guessed that the weeks following Olivia’s arrival would be the most trying time of her life. Mrs. Carmichael is one of nearly 600,000 women diagnosed with maternal mental health issues, often called postpartum mood disorders, each year.

“I don’t mind sharing my story,” Mrs. Carmichael said. “People need to know the issue, what postpartum depression and anxiety actually are. When I first explained my postpartum depression to family and friends, people thought I wanted to hurt my baby or myself. That was not the case for me. It was actually the opposite. I had so much anxiety that I was going to hurt Olivia that it became emotionally overwhelming.”

Mrs. Carmichael and her husband thought she was having the normal anxieties of becoming a mother for the first time. However, the couple soon realized the problem was deeper. While it is normal for new mothers to feel the “baby blues” after childbirth, mental health professionals conservatively estimate up to two mothers in 10 suffer from more severe postpartum mood disorders.

“I remember the day I had my worst panic attack,” Mrs. Carmichael said. “It was two weeks to the day after Olivia was born, the day my husband went back to work after his leave. He walked out the door to go to work, and panic set in. I kept watching the clock, counting down the time until he got home.”

Common forms of maternal mental health issues include crippling anxiety, depression and, in rare cases, psychosis. Mrs. Carmichael’s postpartum issues manifested themselves as anxiety disorders.

“I was always checking on her when she was taking a nap or asleep,” she said. “I was afraid I might find her not breathing. When she woke up crying and I could not console her, that just added to the anxiety and the panic. It got to the point where I had to be around people. I would get her up and dressed, and we would go to a place like Walmart, so I wouldn’t have to be alone with Olivia.”

Based on the information provided to her by her doctors, Mrs. Carmichael believes everyone knows a mother who has suffered from maternal mental health disorders.

“I didn’t know why I was feeling the way I was. I had no way of easing the shakiness that was inside. It got to the point where I wasn’t eating. I wasn’t sleeping. I knew something wasn’t right. I wanted to feel normal again. With the support of my husband and family, I sought help from my doctor.”

Her diagnosis, she said, was one of the most important moments of her life. Although she continues to have anxious feelings concerning Olivia’s wellbeing, she now understands why and where her anxious feelings come from. Like others who have



CARMICHAEL FAMILY

been diagnosed, she is able to take proactive steps to fight her anxieties.

“Just a couple of weeks ago, I had an anxiety attack,” she said. “My doctor told me it probably stemmed from having postpartum. He also said women who may have had postpartum often experience ‘empty nest syndrome’ when their kids move out. Now I am aware that this could happen.”

Untreated maternal mental health issues can have lasting effects on the family. The onset of postpartum depression can be the prelude to long-term depression for mothers. Marriages can suffer as couples struggle to communicate. Additionally, children whose mothers were diagnosed with maternal mental health issues are more likely to suffer from behavioral and emotional problems and a lack of other social skills.

Mrs. Carmichael is thankful for the postnatal care she received. The ability to speak with her doctor about her situation led to early diagnosis of her postpartum anxiety. Once identified, her doctor was able to put Mrs. Carmichael on a treatment plan, with her family and friends involved.

“Talking with my husband and my family was good,” she said. “I talked a lot with my grandmother. She never heard of anything like this. I was educating her at the same time she was talking to me.”

It was a hard decision, she said, to be open within her community about her illness. She worried what others would think about her seeking professional help and being open about it. Fortunately, she had the strength to do what was best for her, and the courage to share with others.

“It is important that you let those close to you know what is going on,” Mrs. Carmichael said. “Even your staff and supervisors. You don’t have to go into detail, but let them know. I was surprised to find that my support team grew. You will be surprised how much people want to help.”

Murray State commencement



Gov. Bill Anoatubby addresses 2016 graduates during Murray State College commencement exercises May 6 on the MSC campus in Tishomingo, Okla. Gov. Anoatubby reflected on his experiences at the school and encouraged graduates to find their passion. “It drives us, fuels us and molds us into an instrument of a greater purpose,” he said. “This passion will change you and lead you to places you never dreamed you could go.”

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Chikasha Ittafama reunion attendees brave weather, enjoy glorious reunion

KULLIHOMA - Chickasaws from across the country gathered for the Chikasha Ittafama (Chickasaw Reunion), May 13-14, at Kullihoma. The event began at 6 p.m., Friday, May 13 with an opening prayer, dinner, stickball and stomp dance. The event also included turtle races, dominoes, and horseshoes. Chickasaws from across the area, and across the country, gathered for this popular annual event. Organizers said the recent gathering had the most attendees in the reunion's history.



Winners in the 18-and-older competition at Chiksha Ittafama Loksi (turtle) races include, from left, Rebecca Pursiville, first place; Virginia Bolen, second place; Gwen Post oak, fourth place; Maria Charqueno, third place; and Paula Sheffield, fifth place.



Participants in the 13- to 17-year-old division of the Chikasha Ittafama Loksi (turtle) races visit with Chickasaw Nation martial arts instructor Matt Clark, left. Participants include, from left, Gabby Smith, Leigh Davidson, Angelia Post oak, and Jazlyn Hart.



First place winners from all three Loksi (turtle) races at Chikasha Ittafama are, from left, Caden Hart, Jazlyn Hart and Rebecca Pursiville. Chickasaw Nation Lt. Governor Jefferson Keel presented each winner with a trophy.



Lori Hamilton, left, joined forces with her mother, Betty, to take second place in domino doubles competition at Chikasha Ittafama May 14. The tournament was in conjunction with activities throughout the Kullihoma Campground to celebrate the Chickasaw Reunion. Hundreds of Chickasaws and visitors took part in the event.



Todd Morgan was crowned the Horseshoe Ringers Champion at the Chikasha Ittafama (Chickasaw Reunion) during competition at Kullihoma Campground May 14.

Chickasaw student starts 'Tigers for Tigers' ECU club

According the World Wildlife Federation, more than 3,000 tigers remain in the wild. Though the number seems small, tiger population is rising for the first time in more than a century. A number of organizations and clubs have been created to bring awareness and protect these animals. One of these organizations, Tigers for Tigers, was introduced at East Central (OK) University by Chickasaw citizen Alyson Chapman. Ms. Chapman is president of the Tigers for Tigers coalition, and is passionate about bringing awareness of the organization's mission to ECU students and the community. Ms. Chapman has always had a fascination with tigers. While following a national coalition called Tigers for Tigers on Twitter, she discovered the animals were facing extinction and knew something had to be done. The group noticed Chapman's Twitter handle "@eyeofthetiger" and sent her a personal message. The messaged noted that ECU did not have a Tigers for Tigers club and suggested Ms. Chapman start one on campus.

Tigers for Tigers is a coalition of universities with tiger mascots, all working together to drive a national conversation about conservation. The group's goal is to develop the next generation of conservation leaders and to get university students, staff and community members involved with events supporting advocacy and fundraising. "I want people to know that these animals are precious to wildlife," Ms. Chapman said. "People in India or Russia are risking their life to help protect tigers. We have the easy part, spreading the word and showing awareness."



ECU "Tigers for Tigers" members with Rory the Tiger in front of the tiger monument on campus. At front left in pink is Chickasaw student Alyson Chapman.

The Tigers for Tigers club focuses not only on issues overseas. The club provides awareness regarding illegal breeding and abuse in the U.S. Ms. Chapman's social media promotions skills and leadership have recruited 40 members for the Tigers for Tigers club. The club also represents the only public university in the coalition with fewer than 10,000 students. "I always knew I wanted to be an ECU Tiger," Ms. Chapman said. "My mom is an alum and received her master's from ECU. I just thought it would be neat to go to the same university as my mom. Plus, they have a tiger mascot."

Ms. Chapman is an ECU sophomore majoring in communications with a concentration in public relations. She is minoring in Native American studies. She is a member of Zeta Tau Alpha and the Chickasaw Nation Recruitment and Retention program. She also volunteers for the ECU Native American Academic Services (NAAS).

Chickasaw Foundation announces Michael Lewis as ECCP Champion of the Month

Michael Lewis is the Chickasaw Foundation's Employee Charitable Contribution Plan (ECCP) Champion of the Month.

Mr. Lewis has been a contributor to the ECCP for 14 years. Participating in the plan, Mr. Lewis said, was a rewarding way to help others by contributing to the Chickasaw Foundation and the Chickasaw Nation.

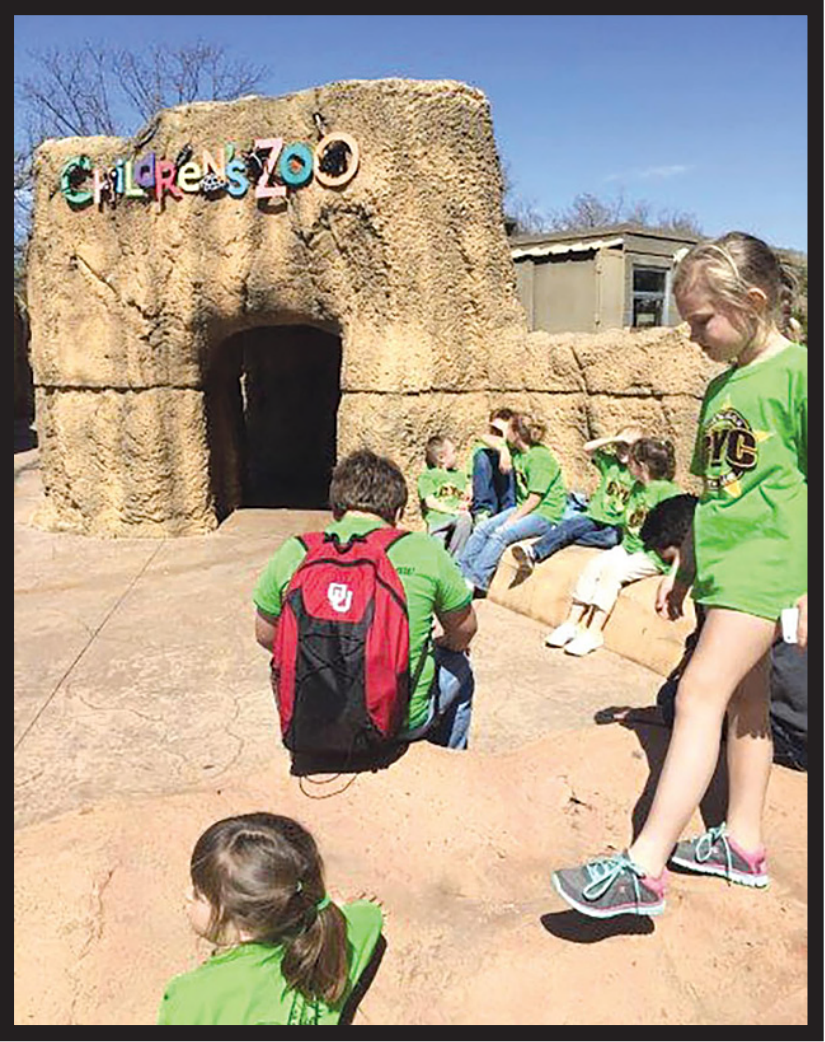
Mr. Lewis works as an IT programmer in the Chickasaw Nation Department of Commerce Information Technology Department.

A native of the Ada area, he attended college at East Central University where he earned a bachelor's degree in computer science. In his spare time, Mr. Lewis enjoys spending time with his family and dachshunds. He



Michael Lewis, Chickasaw Foundation's Employee Charitable Contribution Plan Champion of the Month. also enjoys attending OU football games, going to the gym and classic cars.

Chickasaw Youth Club kids enjoy trip to the OKC Zoo



Forty Chickasaw Youth Club members enjoyed wildlife at the Oklahoma City Zoo March 17. The kids were sponsored by the Chickasaw Foundation through ZooFUND for Kids, a grant created by the Oklahoma Zoological Society. The Oklahoma Zoological Society is a non-profit support group that provides grants to support zoology programs.

Welcoming a new type of visitor

‘Cultural tourism’ opens avenue to showcase Chickasaw history, art

People born outside Oklahoma have a particular notion of what it means to be an “Okie.” Many envision a rustic lifestyle where cowboys and Indians live off the land, riding horses and roping cattle is an everyday occurrence, and for those brave enough, the next meal comes from simply reaching into a river and pulling 40-pound catfish from the murky depths.

For many, the idea of this slow-paced, simple lifestyle can’t be passed up, if even for a weekend. Vacationers travel from far and wide to experience a taste of the

Sulphur.

In addition to working with programs within the Chickasaw Nation, Ms. Barrick serves on numerous community-based boards, councils and committees. These include The Oklahoma Arts Council, Creative Oklahoma planning committee, the Mid-America Arts Alliance, the Oklahoma Arts Council State Art Collection committee, and the Arts District of Ada steering committee, among others.

The experience Ms. Barrick brings to her position allows the Chickasaw Nation a “place at the

for local and regional students.”

The Cultural Center has received many awards and accolades since being dedicated. The facility has been recognized as the top “State Tourism Destination” in 2015 by the Oklahoman Readers’ Choice; named the 2015 “Outstanding Regional Historical Complex” by the Oklahoma Historical Society; received the TripAdvisor’s Certificate of Excellence in 2015; and received CNN’s Travel recommendation in 2014.

Since 2012, the Chickasaw Cultural Center has received four



Lona Barrick is Chickasaw Nation Cultural Tourism executive director. She brings nearly 30 years of cultural and historical knowledge of the tribe to her position. According to Mrs. Barrick, people want to experience Native American way of life the history, culture and art. It is a critically important part of Oklahoma’s history.

Barrick, these have included changing locations and combining the Chickasaw Nation Annual Meeting and Festival in 1992 to the historic capitol of the Chickasaw Nation in Tishomingo. The tribe purchased the building from Johnston County and began renovating the Chickasaw Nation Capitol building. The State of Oklahoma also proclaimed the year as “Year of the Indian.”

“Annual Meeting has always been a special day for the Chickasaw people,” Ms. Barrick said. “It

is the homecoming, the State of the Nation address. We had already been working with (the city of) Tishomingo during for our Festival. The state had declared the 1992 as the ‘Year of the Indian.’ The timing was right to move Annual Meeting to Tishomingo and the date of Festival to change and coincide. Our citizens loved the idea of coming home to their historic capitol.”

The Chickasaw Nation later acquired the Chickasaw White House, located just a few miles from Tishomingo in Emet, from the Oklahoma Historical Society. Today, it serves as a reminder of Oklahoma before statehood.

The Chickasaw Bank, on the National Register of Historic Places, was recently placed in the care of the tribe. It continues to be the home of the Johnston County Historical Society.

Last year, it is estimated that



Cultural tourism is fast becoming the most lucrative segment in the tourism industry. The Chickasaw Nation, collaborating with other organizations within the state, has invested in “Chickasaw Country” and “Adventure Road.” Both are major campaigns to draw tours to the state.

Okie lifestyle. They soon realize the breadth of the rich history and culture of the people who call Oklahoma home.

Today, the cultural tourism segment within Oklahoma’s tourism industry is fast becoming the most lucrative. For the Chickasaw Nation, and other tribes within Oklahoma, cultural tourism has become an avenue to showcase their unique culture and history. It is a way to tell their stories and traditions with their own voice.

Responding to this unique opportunity, leadership within the Chickasaw Nation appointed Lona Barrick to the position of executive officer of Cultural Tourism two years ago.

“People want to experience Native American way of life the history, culture and art,” Ms. Barrick said. “It is a part of Oklahoma’s history. I can remember talking to citizens and getting feedback about the Cultural Center way back in the late 80s, hearing how it should tell our story. We are now in a period of Chickasaw renaissance, and we are able to share it.”

Ms. Barrick was a natural choice for the then newly created executive position within the Chickasaw Nation. She brought with her intimate knowledge of the tribe, paired with understanding of many outside organizations.

Ms. Barrick has worked for the tribe for nearly 30 years. During that time, she has served as the as director of public information, director of the Purcell Area Office, manager of the Chickasaw Motor Inn, editor of the Chickasaw Times, and overseen the tribe’s first tourism department in the early 90s.

Prior to her appointment as executive officer for Cultural Tourism, Ms. Barrick served as executive officer for Chickasaw Nation Arts and Humanities. She oversaw the initial development of the Chickasaw Summer Arts Academy, the Dynamic Women’s Conference and Forum, the Southeastern Art Show and Market and other major art projects featuring nationally recognized Chickasaw and Southeastern tribal artists. She served as the chair of the inaugural Artesian Arts Festival in

table” when decisions are made concerning cultural tourism at the local, state and national levels.

Community Collaborations

The Chickasaw Nation has formed many collaborations over the years with other entities relating to cultural tourism. The tribe is actively involved in developing amenities within the 13-counties of the Chickasaw Nation and preserving historically significant locations within Oklahoma for everyone to enjoy.

The creation of the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur, Okla., is by far the most widely recognized collaboration for cultural tourism. According to Ms. Barrick, discussions began decades before ground was broken on the center.

Once the Cultural Center was approved by the Chickasaw people and a site for the center was determined, the U.S. Congress passed an act to obtain the land on which the facility would be built. A federal bill authorized the exchange of property among the Chickasaw Nation, the City of Sulphur and the National Park Service.

During the land-swap process, former Sulphur Mayor Donald Day testified that the impact of the Cultural Center on the community would be immeasurable.

“The Chickasaw Nation Cultural Center will define Sulphur and Murray County as a tourist destination,” former Mayor Day said. “It addition to the local and regional economic boost, the facility will positively impact local educational institutions by providing a world class destination

ter and the park.

At the Chickasaw Visitors Center in Sulphur, the National Park Service maintains a permanent presence with a ranger available to answer questions for visitors about the history of the Chicka-



More than 5,000 visitors attended the third annual Artesian Arts Festival on May 28 in Sulphur, Okla. Tribal officials estimate 90 Native American and other vendors will participate.

saw National Recreation Area.

Art markets featuring Native Americans artists continue to be a thriving industry within Oklahoma. Ms. Barrick continues to be involved in the Native American art scene.

“Cultural tourism provides opportunities to bring artists

public.

The Southeastern Art Show and Market (SEASAM) takes place in Tishomingo, Okla., during the Chickasaw Nation Annual Meeting and Festival in October. In its 11th year, SEASAM draws Native American artist from across the nation and is one of the premier Native American art shows in the state. Last year, nearly 100 artists and craftspeople shared their cultural identity through the use of the arts.

Working in conjunction with the City of Tishomingo, Johnston County, Murray State College and the Oklahoma Historical Society, the Chickasaw Nation continues to build infrastructure to develop cultural activities and historic sites within south central Oklahoma.

Each collaboration has allowed the Chickasaw Nation to tell the story of its people, as well as improving visitors’ experiences.

According to Ms.



Cultural demonstrators are a favorite of visitors to the Chickasaw Cultural Center. Throughout the year the demonstrators re-enact 18th-century Chickasaw life. Patrons are able to view and participate in beading, weaving, stickball games, stomp dances and other activities common to the Chickasaw tribe.

CONTRIBUTED BY KC Cole, Public Affairs.

Mel Tillis, Music City beckoned

Chickasaw songwriter, producer still busy after years in Nashville

Musically famous names like Mel Tillis, George Jones, Gene Watson and Billy Ray Cyrus, roll off Chickasaw citizen Curt Ryle's tongue with familiar ease. Mr. Ryle's comfort stems from the fact that he has not only worked with these legends, he also knows them as friends.

The Duncan, Okla., native has resided in Nashville, Tenn., since Mel Tillis invited him there in the mid-1980s to write songs for his recording company. Today, Mr. Ryle owns Big Matador Recording Studio where he admits to being a one-man operation. He manages, produces, writes, and sometimes plays guitar for budding recording artists.

"I'm just one of those people who wants to be involved in everything," he said. "It takes a lot of years of doing it to get the knowledge, but once you've got it, you can do a lot of things."

His career in music started at an early age in Duncan as an eight-year-old youngster singing on a local radio program. Touring began during the summers while he was still in high school after his family moved to Broken Bow, Okla.

"I've been a musician for as long as I can remember," he said.



CURT RYLE

"I've worked with Ray Price, Charlie Daniels and many others. I was on the road with Vern Gosden for four or five years."

His career took off in his mid-20s when someone gave Mel Tillis an album he had recorded. The country music great called him the next day.

"It happened really fast like that," Mr. Ryle said. "I was about 24 or 25 years old and I went to Nashville to work with Mel Tillis."

A short time later, country music legend George Jones recorded

a song Mr. Ryle co-wrote with fellow songwriter Ken Martin.

"I always thought the world of George Jones," he said. "He was my idol. When he recorded one of my songs it was the highlight of my career."

The song, "The Real McCoy," is on Jones' "Too Wild, Too Long" album. Mr. Ryle said it was supposed to be the title song and the first single to be released.

"George ended up changing it because Nancy, his wife, wanted the title of the album to be 'Too

Wild, Too Long,' because George had been too wild, too long," Mr. Ryle said, laughing. "It knocked my song off the title."

Nevertheless, just having his composition recorded by his singing hero was enough.

"I love Nancy, so I've never been upset about it," he said. "I was really happy just to get a song on that album."

Gene Watson recorded three of his tunes, and Billy Ray Cyrus recorded one Ryle composition that sold a million records.

"Billy Ray Cyrus did one of my songs that was a million seller - 'Stormin' the Heartland,'" he said. "It came out right after 'Achy-Breaky Heart'." Mr. Ryle co-wrote the song with Billy Henderson and Donald Burns.

He's also played studio guitar for Taylor Swift on the album in which she and Beyonce competed for a Grammy in 2009.

Songwriting took up the majority of his time for several years after moving to Nashville, but he soon branched out into producing records.

"I decided I wanted to try something different, and got into recording," he said. "I've got an artist right now we're looking at signing with Big Machine Re-

cords, which is the label Taylor Swift is on."

This doesn't mean he's given up writing songs.

"We're writing all the songs for that project, so I've got a lot of things going on," he said.

Mr. Ryle's musical talent has been passed down to the next generation. Braden, his 10-year-old son, is already performing on RFD-TV.

"My son has quite a career going," he said.

Among many other projects, he is currently working with Lucas Ciliberti, a Native American artist with whom he shot "Springfields," a music video available for viewing on youtube.com.

"It's Western, kind of like an old Marty Robbins story, but it's done with modern music," he said. "It's not like any album I've ever produced."

Mr. Ryle said he also wants to explore more opportunities to record great Native American talent.

"I just want to get more involved in Native American musical opportunities," he said.

CONTRIBUTED BY Loné Beasley, Media Relations.

Chickasaw dancer credits Arts Academy for success

OKLAHOMA CITY - As the crackling sound of a record player marks the beginning of Meghan Trainor's Dear Future Husband, best friends and tap duet dancers, Sally Pollock and Camilla Lim, began to tap their way through an elite routine. Wearing costumes designed and constructed by their mothers, Sally and Camilla danced in 1950s red and white polka dot "housewife" costumes, complete with a bows for their ponytails, bouffant skirts, gloves and the bilged out tap shoes.

The girls won their first competition with the tap piece February 27. The dance was choreographed by David Pershica at the Legacy Dance National Competition at the Oklahoma City Community College Visual and Performing Arts Theatre in Oklahoma City.

"It really was amazing, because it's in a theatre they aren't used to performing in and there were other people who tapped but couldn't figure out the tap mics, so you couldn't hear them dancing and these two figured it out," Mr. Pershica said. "They placed themselves downstage and we could hear their taps, and they were the only ones."

Sally, a 17-year-old Chickasaw from Duncan, Okla., has been dancing for 15 years. Three years ago she started attending the Chickasaw Arts Academy and quickly became a top student. She works with Mr. Pershica, Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities dance and music theatre manager and dance instructor.

"I would be hard pressed to find another student who loves dance as much as she does," Mr. Pershica said. "I wanted to work with her because of her love of dance and her ability to take direction. You tell her something once and she immediately applies it to what she is doing."



Chickasaw dancer Sally Pollock with dance partner Camilla Lim and instructor David Pershica during the Legacy Dance Competition Feb. 27.

Mr. Pershica could Sally's passion for dance and suggested she spend more time at her dance studio in Duncan perfecting her technique.

After switching studios, Sally added more hours of dance each week and began attending competitions and performing routines throughout the year.

"I came to Arts Academy for the first time and I learned so much more in those two weeks than I probably ever have in four years at my other studio" she said.

Sally and Camilla started working on their tap routine in October. The pair traveled to Ada to work with Mr. Pershica during every Chickasaw Arts Academy

session.

"They are just so committed," Mr. Pershica said. "When other kids are taking their spring break, Christmas break they are here training, which is a major commitment."

Since February, the tap duet have won another first place prize at April's Triumph Dance competition at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma

City.

The Chickasaw Arts Academy two-week summer session will be in July on the East Central University campus in Ada, Okla. The summer session runs daily from 8 a.m. through 5 p.m. and will feature a showcase on the final Saturday, allowing students to celebrate what they have learned during the session. Applications can be found on www.chickasaw.net. Deadline for registration is May 16. Student assessments will take place June 4.

For more information on the Chickasaw Arts Academy, visit www.chickasaw.net/ArtsAcademy.

Message from Chickasaw Princess Raechell Meely

Chokma sa hulcha foet Raechell Meely Chickasha ehn princess saya.

Hello everyone, my name is Raechell Meely and I am your 2015-2016 Chickasaw Princess.

This has been an amazing and unforgettable year so far. Recently, we had the opportunity to visit Albuquerque, New Mexico to attend the 2016 Gathering of Nations and the Miss Indian World competition. This is one of my most cherished times of the year. We were given the opportunity to meet thousands of other Native Americans from the United States and Canada.

On our first night, we attended the Miss Indian World talent competition. All of the contestants were absolutely wonderful and I know the judges had a tough decision to make.

On our third night, Danielle Ta'Sheena Finn, was crowned the new Miss Indian World.

Throughout the weekend, we attended the noon and evening grand entries. We were able to meet different vendors and people. The vendors were displaying amazing beadwork that I hope to one day be able to create as well.

During the grand entry, we met hundreds of royalty from across the country. We also had the pleasure of seeing several familiar faces from Oklahoma as well. The dancers of Gathering of Nations were talented and skilled. Personally, watching the different dance



RAECHELL MEELY, CHICKASAW PRINCESS 2015-2016

competitions is one of my favorite activities. We enjoyed our time watching the talented dancers.

Overall, our weekend in New Mexico was tremendously fun. I enjoyed every minute I'm with the other princesses and our coordinator. I look forward to our upcoming travels and I'm eager to find out what is in store for us.

As the end of our reign gets closer, I've learned to cherish our time more and more. I'm honored to be your Chickasaw Princess and to be able to represent the Chickasaw Nation at so many events and different places.

Chukmashki, Raechell Meely Chickasaw Princess 2015-2016

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Louis L. Mutz



Louis L Mutz was born in Ninnekah, Okla., on August 5, 1922. He died January 28, 2016, in Mustang, Okla. He is the son of Joseph Franklin Mutz, an original Chickasaw enrollee, and Annie Mae Johnson Mutz.

During his early childhood he lived in Rush Springs, moving to Purcell in the sixth grade, and then to Oklahoma City. He joined the Oklahoma National Guard in November, 1939. In September 1940, he became active U.S. Army when the Oklahoma National Guard was activated as part of the 45th Division. A sergeant in the 179th Infantry, he landed on Sicily in July 1943, to begin WWII combat operations, receiving a battlefield promotion to lieutenant in September 1943. He continued through Italy and France, where he met his first wife, Frances, who was serving as a surgical nurse in the Army Nurse Corps, and continued on to Munich, Germany, where he was acting Company Commander in April 1945, when he was released from combat duty to lead a group of men taking German prisoners to the U.S. By the end of the war, he had received a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart, and had participated in four amphibious landings, going ashore in the first wave on two.

Other accomplishments include a five-year project building a home in Oklahoma City, and, with his best friend, building two cabins at Lake Tenkiller. He was also one of the first men in Oklahoma to be certified in self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (SCUBA). He was one of the founders in 1958 of the reorganized Blue Gills Dive Club, which hosted spear fishing tournaments and underwater triathlons at many Oklahoma lakes. He also trained several fire departments in scuba techniques needed for underwater rescue and recovery.

He retired as a painting contractor in the early 1980s, and with Oleta, he traveled, danced, and fished his way through retirement.

He was preceded in death by his wives, Frances Harper, in 1980, and Oleta Vaught, in 2015, each marriage lasting 35 years; a granddaughter, Claire Beth Skowronek; his brother, Irwin; and a half-sister, Mary Gaberdiel.

He is survived by a son, Lenard, of Oklahoma City; a daughter, Lynnette Skowronek, of Flemington, N.J.; a half-brother, Richard, of Sherman, Texas; half-sisters, Anita Skidmore, of Oklahoma City, and Norma Medley, of McAlester; and step-sons, Benny Vaught, of Lake Havasu, Calif., and Tommy Vaught, of Oklahoma City. Survivors also include six grandchildren, three great granddaughters, and one great-great-grandson.

A memorial service was at The Vine Church in Mustang, Okla. on Saturday, April 9, 2016, with interment of his ashes in Resthaven Cemetery in south Oklahoma City.

David Allan Squires



David Allen Squires passed away in the Indian Health Service hospital in Anchorage, Alaska on January 22, 2016 due to complications from the treatment of lung cancer. David, a native of San Diego, Calif., was born on August 28, 1950.

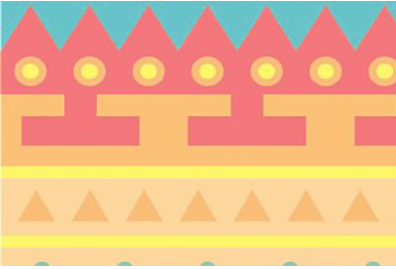
David attended elementary, middle, and high school in San Diego, where he was active in youth sports and the affairs of a large extended family. Blessed with a razor-sharp intellect, David attended college at Humboldt State University before serving in the U.S. Army Airborne Rangers in Vietnam, receiving a Bronze Star. Upon discharge from the Army, David attended Idaho State University, receiving a pharmaceutical degree. He subsequently worked as a pharmacist in Missoula, Mont.; San Diego, and Crescent City, Calif.; Reno, Nev.; and finally Anchorage.

David, an avid sports and outdoors enthusiast, enjoyed hunting, target shooting, archery, camping, and above all else, fishing. He loved to fish trout in mountain streams and lakes. He also enjoyed televised sports of all kinds. He was a keen and highly accomplished reader throughout his life, often reading a single book in a week. David also greatly enjoyed playing board and card games as a child, and throughout his life, in which he won more often than not.

David, a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, was particularly close to his maternal grandfather, Henry "Nick" Carter, an original enrollee by the Dawes Commission and student at the Tishomingo Male Academy. David was the son of Christine Carter Squires, originally from Oklahoma, and Elwin Frank Squires. David traced his Chickasaw lineage from his mother, Christine, to grandfather Nick, to Colbert Kilpatrick Carter, Jr., to Colbert Carter, to Phalishta Colbert and Kilpatrick Carter, to Major Levi Colbert, to James Logan Colbert. David was particularly proud of his Chickasaw heritage, and spoke fondly of time spent back at Ada.

David is survived by his two sons, Nick, of Eugene, Ore., and Wade, of Merlin, Ore.; his wife, Starr Pritchard; and brothers, Richard, of Reno, Nev., Bruce, of Fargo, N.D., and Dale, of San Diego, Calif., David's twin.

David was cremated in Anchorage. His sons received some of his ashes, and the balance, received by his brothers, will be scattered in the Laguna Mountains of San Diego County, accompanied by a memorial service with his extended family.



Jimmy R. Little, Sr.



Jimmy R. Little, Sr., beloved husband and father, joined our Lord on Monday, May 2, 2016 while at home with his family. He was 75 years old. Jimmy was born May 8, 1941 in Ada, Okla., and grew up in Rankin, Texas, home of the Red Devils.

He played high school football and was known as "Big Red." He memorialized his love for the Red Devils in the form of a tattoo of a baby devil on his right arm. Jimmy served honorably in the U.S. Army as a Corporal and played on the Army football team in Germany. He went to college at Texas State University where he met his wife of 48 years, DeAnna, and earned a B.B.A. in accounting. During his 28-year career with Texas Eastern in Houston, he earned a C.P.A. and an M.B.A. from Houston Baptist University.

Jimmy enjoyed taking vacations with his wife and four children, and particularly enjoyed summers camping at Lake Travis in Austin. He relaxed on weekends by competing in chili cook-offs under the name "Pipeline Pig and his almost famous pig slop chili." Jimmy and DeAnna retired at the age of 55, and traveled the country for ten years as full-time RVers. He spent his remaining years in San Antonio while traveling to visit family and friends, and spending the winter in the Texas Valley. Jimmy was also a proud member of the Chickasaw Nation.

He was preceded in death by his parents Rex and Wynema. He leaves behind his loving wife, DeAnna; his brother, John, and sister-in-law, Hildegard; sister, Jan, and brother-in-law, John; his eldest daughter, Masue, with grandchildren, Dustin, Shawna, Stephen, and Dillon, and great-grandchild, Reagan; eldest son, J Butler; youngest daughter, Samantha, and son-in-law, Jeff, with grandsons, William, and Maxwell; youngest son, Jim Jr., and daughter-in-law, Tammy, with granddaughters, Christine, Jennifer, and Jillian.

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Timmy Joe Ludlow



Timmy Joe Ludlow passed away April 22, 2016 after a lengthy battle with liver disease. He was the second eldest son born to Orin Billy Ludlow and Amanda Elizabeth Anoatubby on November 24, 1960.

He was always inquisitive of life and possessed a love for music and drawing. Throughout his life, Tim enjoyed spending time with his numerous canine companions on walks through the woods, exploring the beauty of nature provided to all by our Creator. Tim was a veteran infantryman of the U.S. Army during peace time in the early 80s. Tim received an early honorable discharge to return home to take part in the final days of his maternal grandmother's, Amanda (Colbert) Carter, life. The family will be forever grateful to the Red Cross for bringing Tim home during our bereavement.

Timmy was preceded in death by his father, Orin Billy Ludlow; brother, Michael Dwayne Ludlow; and his mother, Amanda Elizabeth Anoatubby.

Timmy is survived by his spouse, Shelia Herold, of the home in Nitro, W.V.; his two brothers, Christopher Mark Ludlow, and Robert Vincent Ludlow, both of Dallas; three step children; six step grandchildren; and numerous extended family. Timmy also leaves behind his two fur babies, Gizzy and Gracie. Timmy was the grandson of Chickasaw enrollees Lee Anoatubby, and Amanda Colbert (Carter).

In honoring Tim's final wishes he was cremated.

Rest in peace, Tim and enjoy your journey. Give everyone our love that's already made the journey. Until we meet again, much love, Tim, from all of us, and we'll forever miss you.

Martha (Fuson) Morehead



Martha (Fuson) Morehead, age 86, of Purcell, Okla., passed away Sunday, May 1, 2016, at Purcell Municipal Hospital. She was born August 19, 1929 in Tishomingo, Okla., to Tom and Agnes Fuson.

Martha married Joe H. Morehead at Trinity United Methodist Church in Purcell on January 8, 1951. Martha was a homemaker, a hairdresser, and also a nurse's assistant at Norman Regional Hospital before retiring in 1985. She moved from Norman to Purcell after retirement and has called it home ever since. She was a longtime member of the Trinity United Methodist Church in Purcell.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Joe H. Morehead; her parents, Tom and Agnes Fuson; three brothers; and two sisters.

Martha is survived by two sons, Joe K. Morehead, and wife, Paula, of Riverton, Wyo., and Mike Morehead, of Norman; two grandchildren, Miranda Jo Morehead, and wife, Christina, of Riverton, Wyo.; one great grandchild, Raine McCoy Morehead, of Riverton, Wyo.; five sisters, Tommie Bettis, of Durant, Okla., Tina Rath, of Norman, Okla., Sue Allen, of Stonewall, Okla., Linnie Smith, of Purcell, and Lenora Hobbs, of Purcell; one brother, Ed Fuson, of Ardmore, Okla.; three nieces; and eight nephews.

Memorials may be made to the Trinity United Methodist Church "Memorial Fund" in Martha's name.

Private Services are scheduled for a later time. Send online condolences at wilsonlittle.com

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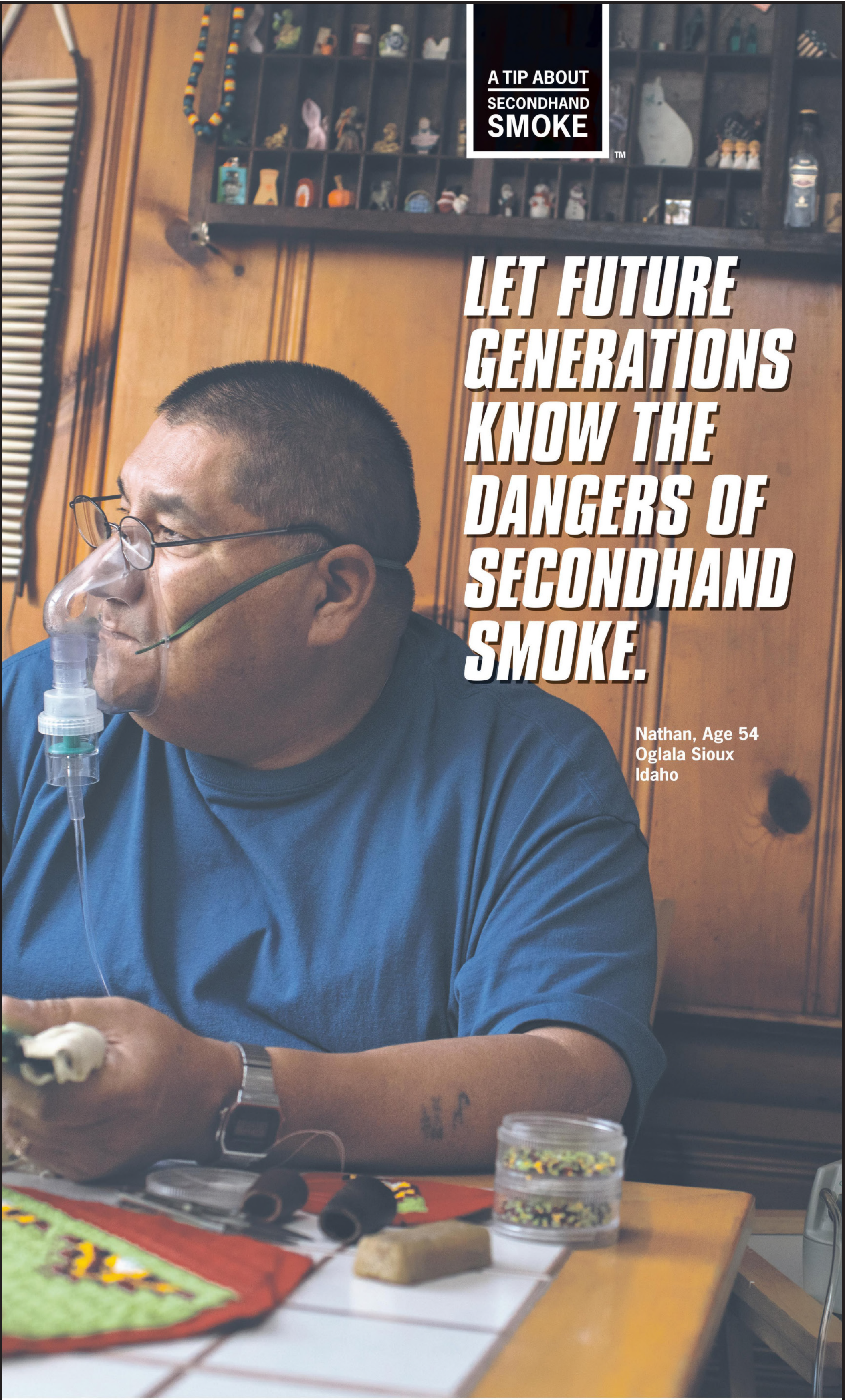


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A TIP ABOUT
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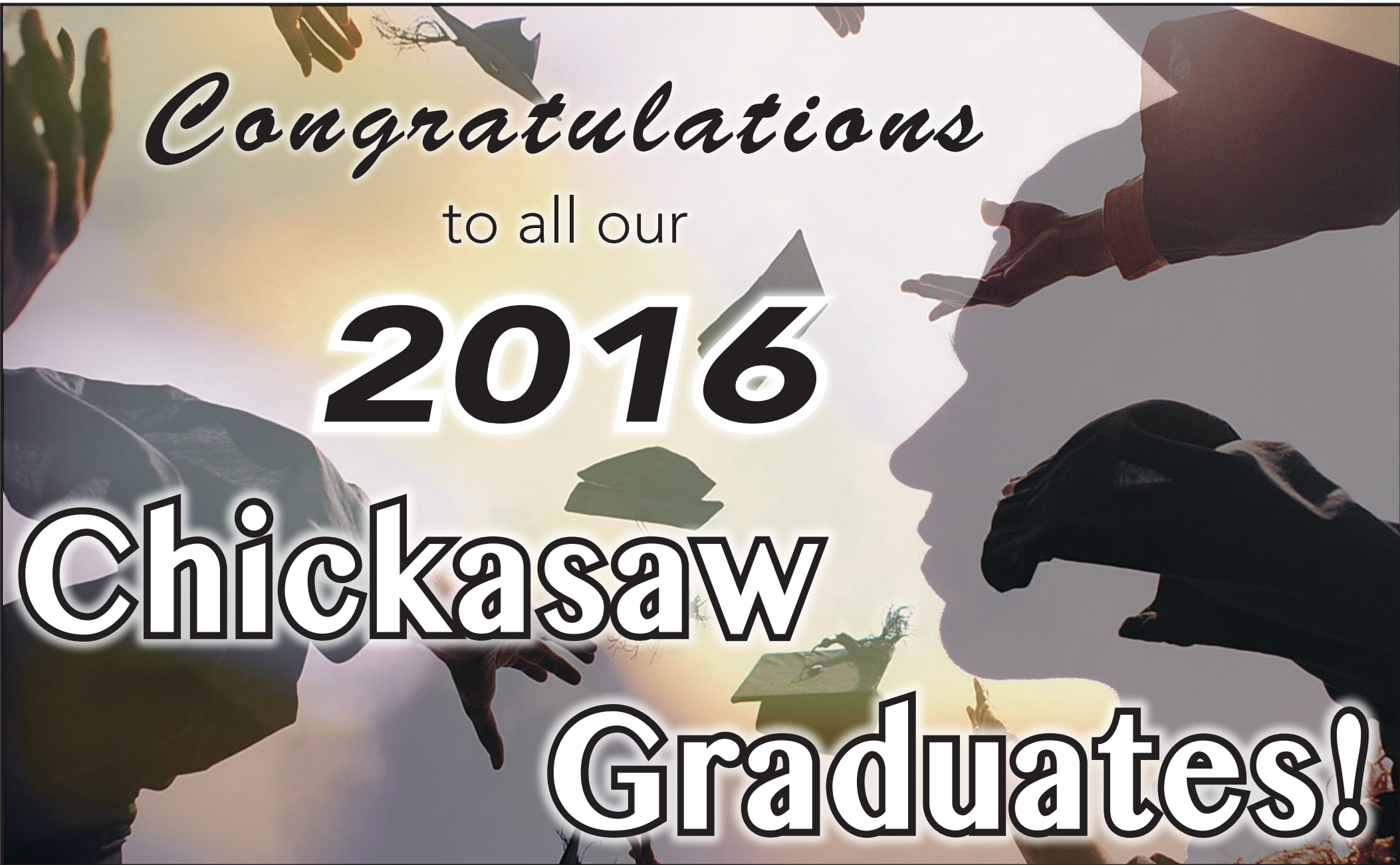
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Allie Foster

Allie Foster, of R ub o t - tom, Okla., is a 2016 graduate of Turner High School. She is the daughter of Kent and Melissa Foster, and the granddaughter of Larry and Vera Wolfe, and Steve and Kathlene Foster.



She is president of her senior class, FFA president, and made the All State team in class B Fastpitch softball this year. She also plays basketball, and shows pigs that she raises on her pig farm.

She plans to attend college and major in business and accounting.

Chet James Hamilton

Chet James Hamilton is a 2016 graduate of Rouse High School. He is the son of Matthew and Pamela Hamilton, grandson of tribal elder Margot A. (Moore) Hamilton, of Austin, Texas, and James and Carol Monk, of Norfolk, Neb., great-grandson of Chet and Owana Moore, of Edmond, Okla., and great-nephew of tribal elder Jeraldine “Jerry” Brown, of Edmond, Okla.



Throughout high school, he excelled in football, basketball, tennis, theatre, academics, and leadership programs. His academic achievements include advanced placement and college level courses. His current class rank is 20th out of 549, and a GPA of 3.9118 on a 4.0 scale and a weighted GPA of 5.0706. In addition, Chet has become a lead student attorney for a Local Municipal Court - Teen Court Program. He is also a member of the National Honor Society, Rouse Scholars, student council as senior vice-president, and PALS. He received varsity letters as a sophomore and junior, but retired from athletics his senior year to pursue theatre. After auditioning for Rouse’s Fall Show “Big Love” and being cast as the lead understudy, Chet instantly fell in love with theater. He continued to perform in musicals such as “Oklahoma,” and as Harry the Horse in “Guys and Dolls.” He was a lead in the 2016 fall show “Leading Ladies,” and starred as Christopher Columbus this year in UIL Competition One Act Play Mariner, which proceeded to advance to Bi-District competition, where Chet received both Honorable Mention and All-Star Cast awards. As a member of the International Thespian Society, he auditioned in front of dozens of colleges in San Antonio and Dallas at Texas Thespians auditions. Chet received the highest number of call backs, of forty-three, from incredible colleges including the University of Texas, Austin (UTA), University of Southern California (USC), and New York Film Academy (NYCA).

Chet will attend the University of Texas at Austin for the 2016-2017 school term.



Tasia Nelson

Tasia Nelson is a 2016 graduate of Byng High School in Byng, Okla. She is the daughter of Demarcus and Maurisa Nelson, sister of Carizma, and Maka-viya Nelson, granddaughter of Penny Davis, Troy and Tiffany Dame, Viola and Danny Bush, and Tony Nelson, and great-granddaughter of Viola Jefferson, Jimmy and Carolyn Simmons, Louis and Gladys Daniel, Steve and Judy Bray, Maggie Luckey, the late Robert Nelson, and the late Troy and Betty Dame.



She maintained a cumulative 3.2 GPA throughout her high school career. She was an active varsity catcher in fast-pitch softball and left fielder in slow-pitch softball for the Byng Lady Pirates. In 2015, she made the all-conference team, was awarded best offensive player in fast-pitch, and best defensive player in slow-pitch. This last May, Tasia accepted an athletic scholarship from Southwestern Christian University to play fast-pitch softball.

She plans to major in sports medicine. She would like to help high school athletes in preparing and maintaining their bodies for athletics to decrease the chances of injury, and also work with injured athletes on recovery as well.

Kaden Kennedy

Kaden Kennedy is a 2016 graduate of Amber-Pocasset High School in Amber, Okla. He is the son of Terry and Kim Kennedy, grandson of Tom and Jeanette Haywood, Ken and Janice Hardy, and Jerry and Vickie Kennedy, and great-grandson of the late Joe and Gladys Fryrear Sparks.

He is graduating as valedictorian of his senior class. Kaden has been actively involved in basketball, FFA, 4-H, FCA and National Honor Society. He has received many honors, including the Panther Award, 4-H state finalist in geology, and safety, Oklahoma FFA degree with academic honors, FFA vice-president, 4-H president, star chapter FFA degree, captain of the varsity basketball team, and all-conference.

His future plans are to attend Oklahoma State University majoring in sports medicine/management. He has also been selected to be a student manager for the men’s basketball team at OSU.



Brandon Postoak

Brandon Matthew Postoak is a 2016 graduate of East Central University in Ada, Okla. He is the son of Eddie Postoak and Tommie Postoak, brother of Tiffany Postoak and Jeremy Edwards, and grandson of Rosie Sampson-Postoak.

He graduated with a bachelors of science degree in biology.



Hannah Clarice Brandon

Hannah Clarice Brandon is a 2016 graduate of California Virtual Academy High School. She is the daughter of Jessica Imotichey, granddaughter of Paul and Carol Imotichey, great-granddaughter of Jonas and Josie Imotichey, and Clarice Cheadle. Hannah will attend Santa Monica College in the fall with plans to pursue a degree in the medical field.



Ashley Nikole Landrum

Ashley Nikole Landrum is a 2016 graduate at Southmoore High School in Moore, Oklahoma. She is the daughter of Duane and Carrie Landrum, of Moore; sister to Malia, and Brandon Landrum, of Moore; granddaughter of Timmy and Patty Griffin, of Alex, Okla., the late Mary Landrum, of Oklahoma City, and Roland and the late Tammy Landrum, of Picayune, Miss.; great-granddaughter of Martha and the late Fred Hill, of Dibble, Okla., and Don and Marian Griffin, of Purcell, Okla. Ashley was active on the Jr. High and High School golf team, and was the High School DECA secretary her senior year. After graduation, Ashley plans on attending OCCC to get a degree in business.



Daniel Carpenter

Daniel Carpenter is a 2016 graduate of Ada High School in Ada, Okla. He is the son of Don and Dex Carpenter, and the grandson of the late Don H. Carpenter, Robert H. Mundy, Sue Burke, of Durant, Okla., and Nella Mundy, of Nashville, Tenn. He is also family of Chris, Jessica, Cade, Camdyn, Claire, Jeff, Lauren, and Cohen Carpenter. Daniel has been involved with student council, serving as president, Ada High tennis team, Chickasaw tennis team, percussion section leader, concert band, math club, science club, Spanish club, health club, Native American club, National Honor Society, FCA, Japanese interact and his church youth group. He has also received several awards including Eagle Scout, National Honor Society, Native American Honor Society, Governor's Honor Roll, Vision Bank Board of Directors, JOM Senior Student of the Year, Ada High School Outstanding Senior Leader award, the Bronson Warren Spirited Leader Award for the Ada High band, and was chosen to the Youth Leadership Oklahoma Class of 2015. Daniel has been accepted to the University of Oklahoma. He has received the honor of being selected into the University of Oklahoma's President's Leadership Class and has been awarded a Valedictorian Scholarship to the University. His plans include a career in either law or business.



Adele Levine

Adele Levine is a 2016 graduate of Boston University School of Public Health in Boston, Mass. She is the daughter of Hershel and Mila Levine, of Hyde Park, Mass., granddaughter of James A. and Martha Beshirs, of Durant, Okla., and great-granddaughter of James A. Beshirs Sr. and Isadora Beshirs, of Durant, Okla. She graduated with a master's degree in public health in maternal and child health. Adele earned several distinctions while at Boston University, including a Maternal and Child Health Fellowship to study mental health in the juvenile justice system. She also participated in the Maternal and Child Health Leadership Education Program. After graduation, she will be working at Simmons College to train social work and nursing students on substance use assessment in health care settings. She would like to thank the Chickasaw Nation for the support and guidance she received during her undergraduate and graduate education.



Faithlyn Seawright

Faithlyn Taloa Seawright is a 2016 graduate of Latta High School in Ada, Okla. She is the daughter of Gwen Burris and Larry Seawright. She is an honor student, member of the Governor's Honor Club, and Gifted and Talented. She is the vice-president of Membership for FCCLA, and president of her schools' Native American Club, Peacemakers. Faithlyn was also the 2015-2016 Jr. Miss Indian Oklahoma, 2013-2014 Jr. Chickasaw Princess, and 2011-2013 All Nations Pow-Wow of Ada Princess. She has placed in the interscholastic meets at Murray State College, and Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She was the March Ada Rotary Student of the Month, and has won several awards for her art. Faithlyn plans to attend Southeastern Oklahoma State University after graduation as an art major. She will then transfer to the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, N.M., to complete her bachelor's degree in studio art.



Desiree' Wright

Desiree' Wright is a 2016 graduate of Oklahoma State University. She is the daughter of Steve and Tami Wright. Her maternal grandparents are William D. and the late Sharon K. James. Her paternal grandparents are Wynn Ann and the late Jim D. Wright. She is the great-granddaughter of Virginia (Hull) James, great-great-granddaughter of Jessie Hull and Ella Bishop, great-great-great-granddaughter Sippi (Paul) Hull, great-great-great-great-granddaughter of Smith Paul, great-great-great-great-great-granddaughter of Ala-Teecha. She graduated with honors, earning a bachelor of science degree in agricultural science and natural resources with a major in animal science, and a minor in agricultural economics and agribusiness. She was the recipient of the following scholarships/grants/awards from the Chickasaw Tribe: Higher education, Text Book Grant, General Scholarship, Clothing Scholarship, and Classification Change Incentive. Other scholarships/grants/awards she received include: Academic Excellence Scholarship, Jack and Joyce Cline Endowment, J.R. Payne Jr. Memorial Scholarship, Neumann Animal Science Scholarship, Freshman Research Scholarship, President's Honor Roll, and Dean's Honor Roll. Upon graduation, Desiree' will seek a master of science degree in international agriculture from Oklahoma State University.



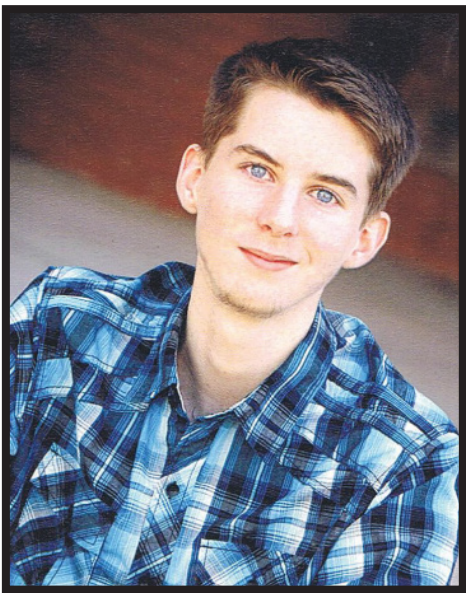
Stephen James Marsh

Stephen James Marsh is a 2016 graduate of the University of Oklahoma, College of Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy. He is the son of Gary and Cheryl Marsh, of Katy, Texas, grandson of Mary Snow and the Late Eugene Snow, of Purcell, Okla., and Jack and Melba Marsh, of Tecumseh, Okla. He graduates with a bachelor of science in geophysics, with a minor in mathematics. He received the Outstanding Senior award in geophysics. He plans to continue his education, and pursue a masters in geophysics at the University of Oklahoma. We are so proud of you, Stephen!



Ryan Michael Marsh

Ryan Michael Marsh is a 2016 graduate of Tompkins High School in Katy, Texas. He is the son of Gary and Cheryl Marsh, of Katy, Texas, grandson of Mary Snow and the late Eugene Snow, of Purcell, Okla., and Jack and Melba Marsh, of Tecumseh, Okla. He has been involved in basketball and many other activities. He is planning on attending the University of Oklahoma in the fall, and will major in computer engineering. We are so proud of you, Ryan.



Kylie Renee Price

Kylie Renee Price is a 2016 graduate of Ringling High School in Ringling, Okla. She is the daughter of Scott and Giohna Price, and the granddaughter of Max and Georgia Gibson, of Ringling, Okla., CC Price, of Lone Grove, Okla., and the late Movita Price.

She is ranked fourth in her class with a 4.0 GPA. She is active in FFA, basketball, FCA, and student council. She served as yearbook co-editor, is a member of the Oklahoma and National Honor Societies, and was named Chamber of Commerce Student of the Month in 2015 and 2016. She also served as a teacher's aide, and has taken concurrent college classes during her senior year.

Her future plans are to attend Murray State College for her basics, and then obtain a degree in dental hygiene.



Kaitlin Bolin

Kaitlin Bolin is a 2016 graduate of Dickson High School in Dickson, Okla. She is the daughter of Teresa and Glenn Bolin, and the granddaughter of Calvin McCurry and the late Fern McCurry, and Edith and Orvan Hubbard.

She is graduating as valedictorian of her senior class. She has also been involved in many other activities such as being a class officer, American Heart Society Sweetheart Ambassador, Oklahoma Academic Scholar, member of FCCLA, Team Chickasaw golf, Dickson girls' golf team, and the National Honor Society.

She plans to attend Murray State College and pursue a business degree with a minor in finance or accounting.



Nakiah Little Fox Adair

Nakiah Little Fox Adair, of Ada, Okla., is a 2016 graduate of Byng High School in Byng, Okla. She is the daughter of Mariah Greenwood Adair and David Adair, and is the granddaughter of the late Don and Lou Greenwood Boston, the late Arnold "Arnie" Deckard, and Nancy Adair.

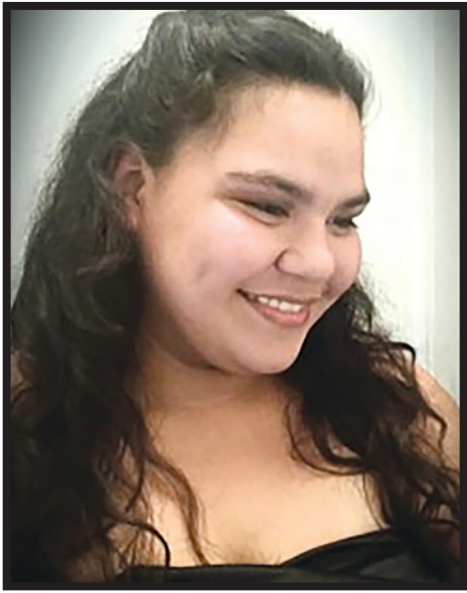
While at Byng, she has participated in high School softball, giving blood, and other various events to help her class and classmates. Her favorite thing to do is listen to her favorite band, Black Veil Brides, as well as play co-ed softball, basketball, volleyball, spend time with her besties, and cousins, Nuk and Toby. Over the years at Byng, she has grown close to her teachers and will hate not being able to see them, but will love not having to get up early to catch the bus.

She has a great passion for the outdoors, and animals, and has a very genuine heart. She likes to help anytime she can, and always offers her time when her friends or family need her. During her senior year, she dedicated her heart to the Lord, and was baptized at H2O church. She was very excited for this life event, and was thrilled to see her coaches, Mo and Hurst, in attendance.

She is very excited to be graduating and starting the next chapter of her life. She plans to attend Murray State College in the fall, and pursue a career in law.

Congratulations KiKi from Auntie T. We love you and are so proud of you.

~Mom, Piper, DJ, Courney, Skugah, Mahli, Mai mai, your uncles, aunts, cousins, and friends.



Kimberly Clark

Kimberly Clark is a 2016 graduate of Dickson High School in Dickson, Okla. She is the daughter of Jeff and Mysti Clark, and the granddaughter of Junior and Kathy DeBord, and the late Wiley and Lena Clark.

She played softball, fastpitch and slowpitch, all throughout high school. She was the pitcher for slowpitch the past two years, and was a member of the slowpitch team that made school history by winning Districts. She has been in FFA since eighth grade, and on the skeet and trap shooting team all throughout high school. She also received an FFA state degree this year.

Her future plans are to attend Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Okla., where she wants to major in wildlife and fisheries.



Kamry Dawn Walker

Kamry Dawn Walker is a 2016 graduate of Konawa High School in Konawa, Okla. She is the daughter of Ricky and Yauna Walker, and the granddaughter of the late Rev. Jimmie and Ella Walker, and Bessie Davis.

She played basketball for four years, and was in the Native American Club.

She plans to attend Gordon Cooper Technology Center in Shawnee, Okla., and study phlebotomy.



Madelyn Caldwell

Madelyn Caldwell is a 2016 graduate of Pauls Valley High School in Pauls Valley, Okla. She is the daughter of Randi Caldwell, and the granddaughter of Pam and Doug Caldwell.

She has received academic honors, was named to 2015 Little All City Track team, 2015 Mile Track, Chickasaw Honor Roll, and 2015 Academic All State Track.

She will be attending the University of Central Oklahoma, and joining the university track team.



Paige Dearington

Paige Victoria Rose Dearington is a 2016 graduate from Charles Page High School in Sand Springs, Okla. She is the daughter of Lisa Gray and Lance Dearington, granddaughter of Rose Ann Hurst, and great-granddaughter of Evelyn Young Hurst, and Ross Hurst.

She is graduating with honors, and was active in FFA for four years, and received her State FFA degree. She is also a member of the National Honor Society, and received the Built Ford Tough scholarship, academic scholarship to University of Tulsa, and the Alumni Scholarship.

Her plans are to obtain her bachelor's degree in biochemistry, and then pursue a doctorate in veterinary medicine.



Ryan Matthew Marshall

Ryan Matthew Marshall, Jr. is a 2016 graduate of Upland High School in Upland, Calif. He is the great-great-great-grandson of John Billie, an original Dawes enrollee.

Ryan is focusing on writing, developing, and designing computer games. He has received special recognition for completing four years in the "Lead the Way" Engineering Program.

The whole Marshall family is very proud!



Christian Crittenden

Cristian Roderick Crittenden is a 2016 graduate from Borger High School in Borger, Texas. He is the son of Kevin and Jennifer Crittenden, of Borger, grandson of Gary and Pauline Crittenden, of Bixby, Okla., and the fifth great-grandson of Rhoda Mae Kemp, an original enrollee.

He will be attending Amarillo College in Amarillo, Texas on a vocal music scholarship.



Shelby Nicole Smith

Shelby Nicole Smith is a 2016 graduate of Tishomingo High School in Tishomingo, Okla. She is the daughter of Steven and Many Smith, and granddaughter of Lynn and Angie Hyatt, of Roff, Okla., and Ebbin Smith, Sr. and Eunice Smith, of Mill Creek, Okla.

She was a part of the 13-year club at Tishomingo High, and served as the senior class representative. She also played varsity basketball, and softball for four years, cheerleading for two years, and was the boys' track manager. In addition, she was a member of the Chickasaw Leadership program for five years, FFA for two years, FCCLA for one year, choir for two years.

She will attend East Central University in the fall and pursue a career in pediatrics.



Danya Rachelle Hook

Danya Rachelle Hook is a 2016 graduate of Tishomingo High School in Tishomingo, Okla. She is the daughter of Danny Hook and Denise Hook, and the granddaughter of Betty Martin and the late Jesse Doyle Hook, and Brenda Standifer and the late Preston Brooks.

She is 17 years old, has attended Tishomingo schools for 14 years and has been a concurrent student at Murray State College. Her school activities include Tishomingo High School band, Art Club, Tishomingo High School girls golf team, FCCLA, and 4-H. She has also been active in Chikasha Pehlichik Youth Leadership Program, Johnston County Youth Leadership, ECU Talent Search, Tishomingo Cheer Academy Glitz Pom team, and Southeast District Action team. She is currently serving as FCCLA vice-president, Tishomingo High School 4-H Club reporter, and Johnston County 4-H secretary. Her awards and honors include Chickasaw Outstanding Achievement Award, Chickasaw Honor Club, Tishomingo High School President's Honor Roll, Future Historian Award, Highest Grade Point Average in English award, Highest Grade Point Average in Government award, Johnston County 4-H Hall of Fame, Outstanding Fair Exhibitor award, Johnston County 4-H Speech Contest Grand Champion 8 times, SE District 4-H Speech Contest 1st place 7 times, "Be the Best in Oklahoma" State Speech Contest winner, 4-H Share the Fun Grand Champion 8 times, 4-H Member of the Year, Outstanding 4-H Secretary Book Award, Outstanding 4-H Record Book Award, Fairest of the Fair Sr. Division Winner, Denver Western Roundup award, Citizenship Washington Focus award, 4-H National Congress Delegate, 4-H National Key Club member, State 4-H Recreation & Leisure Arts Project scholarship winner, "Johnston County Has Talent" winner, Oklahoma Art Exhibition Merit Award winner, and Chickasaw "Call to Artists" Photo Contest winner.

Her future plans are to attend Murray State College, majoring in computer information systems - graphic design. She also hopes to have her own business one day.



Makayla Lea Plemmons

Makayla Lea Plemmons is a 2016 graduate of Denison High School in Denison, Texas. She is the daughter of Michael and Tamera Plemmons, a granddaughter of Reginald and LaQuita Curtis, and Curtis and Wanda Davis, all of Denison, Texas. She is the second great-granddaughter of Beni Nuton Landers, an original enrollee on the Dawes Roll, and is the sixth great-granddaughter of Col. Slone Love, who served as a commissioner and delegate of the Chickasaws during and after the removal to Indian Territory.

She will graduate as a Texas Scholar. She was active in Future Farmers of America, where she participated as a judge, and raised steers, bantams, and goats for the annual stock show. She participated and excelled in cosmetology, all while taking dual credit college courses throughout her high school years.

Makayla plans to continue her education at Grayson College for her basics, and then Texas A&M to graduate with her veterinarian degree.



James William Monroe

James William Monroe, of Ada, Okla., is a 2016 graduate of the Oklahoma University School of Music. He is the son of Leonard and Merry Monroe, of Ada, Okla., grandson of the late Rev. Howard and Lorena Baker, the late Jim Monroe, and Daisy Stout.

He was born and raised in Ada, Okla. He previously graduated from Byng High School, and East Central University. He has an interest in playing fast-pitch softball, as well as running in 5k and 10k races.

James plans to continue his interest in music, and would like to be a music instructor in order to share his love of music.



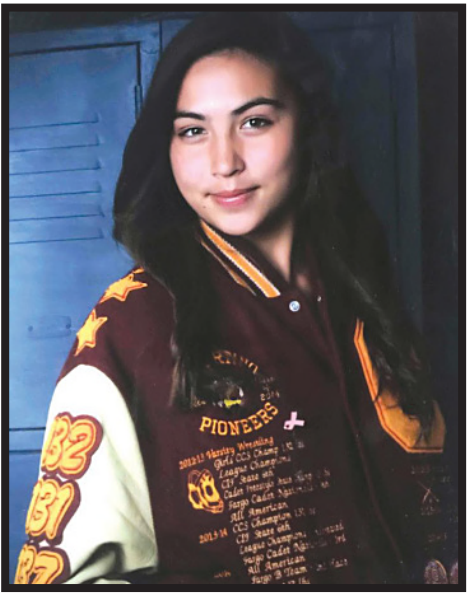
Solin N. Piearcy

Solin N. Piearcy, of San Jose, Calif., is a 2016 graduate of Cupertino High School. She is the daughter of Samuel and Elaine Piearcy, granddaughter of Sam and Bobby Piearcy, and great-granddaughter of Lorene Piearcy.

She has had an amazing high school career. She has been a three-sport scholar athlete all four years playing field hockey, track and wrestling. She has received All League recognition in all sports. She was MVP for each sport the past two years. She is also involved in ASB, Honor Society, choir, and community services.

Solin is the only four-time Central Coast Section Champion in Cupertino High School history, and the eleventh person to accomplish this in the CCS. She finished the year off with a State title in wrestling, with a record of 33 wins with 32 pins, not allowing a single point all season. She attended Nationals in Oklahoma City in March, and became the school's second National Champion. She has won the Pursuing Victory with Honor award at the State Championships twice. She will finish high school with a 3.85 GPA, and as the outstanding student for Cupertino High School.

Solin will continue wrestling for Menlo College in the fall, and major in business marketing.



Israel Ben-Soloman Wells

Israel Ben-Soloman Wells, of Springfield, Mo., is a 2016 graduate of Kickapoo High School. He is the son of Jef and Margie Wells, of Springfield, brother of older sister Sophia G. Wells, of Oklahoma City, and younger brother Isaiah C. Wells, of Springfield, and grandson of the late Ben Wells and Linda Wells of Ada, Okla., Ken and Karen Horne, of Springfield, Mo., and Jess and Paula Gibson, of Springfield.

He is a descendant of the late Delta Iona Wells, a Chickasaw original enrollee from Ada, Okla.

He lettered in varsity football as a wide receiver/cornerback, has played many years of club basketball, participates regularly in student-led Bible studies, and is very involved at his church, having served in the children's ministry and various community outreaches for many years.

He plans to continue his education at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Okla., where he will study exercise science. Oral Roberts University has awarded him a \$10,000.00 academic scholarship, as well as an ORU Quest Whole Person scholarship.



Dixie Jenea Taylor

Dixie Jenea Taylor is a 2016 graduate of Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. She is the daughter of Todd and Gina Taylor, of Bullard, Texas, and granddaughter of Joe and Jenny Roberts, of Lone Grove, Okla.

She received her bachelor of science degree in agricultural services and development with a minor in communication with an agricultural emphasis.



Spencer Busick

Spencer Busick is a 2016 graduate of Harding Charter Preparatory High School in Oklahoma City. He is the son of Mark and Vickie Busick, and grandson of Arthia Bridges. He will graduate with honors, and has always aimed high when it comes to academics. He is a member of the National Honor Society, made the Principal's Honor Roll numerous times throughout his high school years, and was a member of the Oklahoma City River Sports Rowing team his freshman and sophomore years. He will be attending Ft. Lewis College in Durango, Colo., in the fall of 2016. Great Job Spencer!



Ally Reese Burns

Ally Reese Burns is a 2016 Graduate of Midlothian High School, in Midlothian, Texas. She is the daughter of Brad and Jennifer Burns, of Waxahachie, Texas, and Elizabeth and Scott Dieckmann, of Midlothian, Texas, and granddaughter of the late Charles "Red" and Anna Mae Burns, of Stilwell, Okla., and George and Suzie Hill, of Cedar Hill, Texas. Ally is a direct descendant of Chief Edmund "Ok-cha-tubby" Pickens, first elected chief of the Chickasaws. Chief Pickens was also known as the last chief of the Chickasaw Nation due to the creation of the Chickasaw Constitution of 1856, replacing the traditional tribal chieftdom with a Chickasaw governor. Ally's great-great-grandmother was Mollie Pickens, granddaughter to Chief Pickens. Mollie married Charley Ambrose Burns, who rode for Judge Isaac Parker during the territorial days as a US Deputy Marshall. Charley eventually became Superintendent of the Oklahoma Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation. Ally's involvement in school and community includes cheerleading, Midlothian High School student council, Blue Crew spirit group, Future Farmers of America, Peer Assisted Leaders supporting students with disabilities, school and club volleyball, and vacation Bible school volunteer. Her achievements consist of A-B Honor Roll, National Junior Honor Society, cheer captain, sand volleyball champion, Student Council secretary, Future Farmers of America Animal Science Judging team, and recognized as a Senior Homecoming Queen nominee. Ally will be attending Oklahoma State University in Stillwater this fall, 2016, majoring in animal science, with hopes of becoming a veterinarian. Go POKES!



Addison Kliewer

Addison Kliewer is a 2016 graduate of Cordell High School in Cordell, Okla. She is the daughter of Milli and Phil Kliewer, and great-granddaughter of Harry Hill Phillips, an original enrollee. Mr. Phillips was an oil and gas pioneer in Chickasaw country growing up in Blanchard and Chickasha. Addison was born in Lawton, Okla., and is a highly acclaimed equestrian, having shown various styles for 10 years, most recently "hunter jumping." As part of aKa Stables LLC in Cordell, she has garnered numerous honors from reserve champion at The American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio, to three "top 10s" at the Youth World in Oklahoma City last year. Addison has traveled to Tampa, Las Vegas, Scottsdale, Lexington, and Fort Worth for competition. Addison served as captain of her basketball team at Cordell where her sophomore year her team was runner-up in the 2A state tournament. Addison is also a six-time "track and field" and "cross country" state champion winning the 2A long jump as a junior. Addison's leadership is evident on the court, track, classroom, and show arena as her infectious spirit and enthusiasm helped guide her to team and individual championships. She is a 4.0 student and was valedictorian. She has received numerous scholarship offers including a verbal commit to Friends University in Wichita, Kan., where she received both track and academic scholarships. She is president of the Cordell Student Council and Vice President of her senior class. She has attended several leadership conferences as a Cordell delegate and frequently introduces dignitaries who come to speak in school assemblies. Addison's Chickasaw heritage is displayed as a Chickasaw Honor Student every semester she has been eligible. Addison and her sister are currently appearing on television through the "Profiles of a Nation" series regarding their equine pursuits. Addison volunteers through various churches to help both the elder and youth populations of the community. She has been Cordell "Student of the Nine Weeks, Cordell Civic Club "Student of the Month," and an officer of the Oklahoma Quarter Horse Youth Association.



Tyler Rodgers

Tyler Rodgers is a 2016 graduate of Latta High School in Ada, Okla. He is the son of Preston and Deborah Rodgers, grandson of Don Thornton and late Rita Johnson, and the late Lynn Rodgers and Floy Rodgers, and great-grandson of the late Holmes Colbert Johnson and Mary Evelyn Johnson. He is proud member of Chikasha Pehlichik Ikbi, and the Latta academic team. He has participated at the East Central University academic meet receiving first place in world history, second place in impromptu speaking, and third place in American government. He also won first place in current events, and third place in English literature at the Murray State academic meet, and first place in world history and American government at the Southeastern University meet. Tyler will be attending East Central University majoring in history with teacher certification.



Destiny Vaden

Destiny Vaden is a 2016 graduate of Lee's Summit North High School, Lee's Summit, Mo. She is the daughter of Crystal Vaden and Daniel Neustadter, sister of Joshua and Hailey, and the granddaughter of Willie and Kathy Vaden. She will be attending Central Methodist University on both volleyball and academic scholarships. She will major in nursing, with the plan to eventually become a nurse anesthetist. Her family is so proud of the young lady she has decided to become. She is a strong, dedicated, resilient, hardworking, kindhearted, and motivated young woman who has the world at her feet. The best is yet to come.



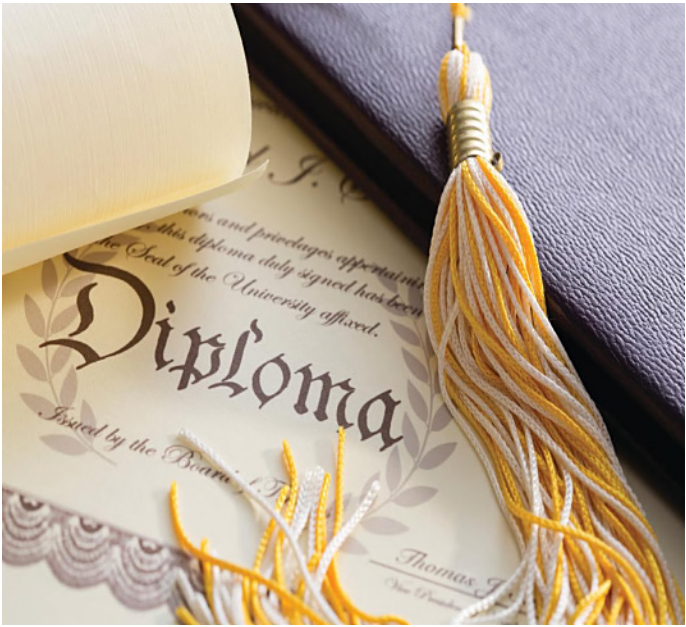
Mandy Nash

Mandy Nash is a 2016 graduate of the University of Oklahoma with a master of arts degree in administrative leadership and a graduate certificate in administrative leadership. She was selected by the university to be the Chickasaw Nation Flag Bearer for the ceremony, and also has the unique distinction of maintaining an overall 4.0 GPA, never earning less than an A throughout all of her graduate and undergraduate coursework. This academic accomplishment was recognized by OU President David L. Boren at a 4.0 medallion ceremony. Mandy's family, Bryan, Bryanna, Brendan, and Bryan Michael, are very proud of all of her academic achievements.



Rebecca K Brink

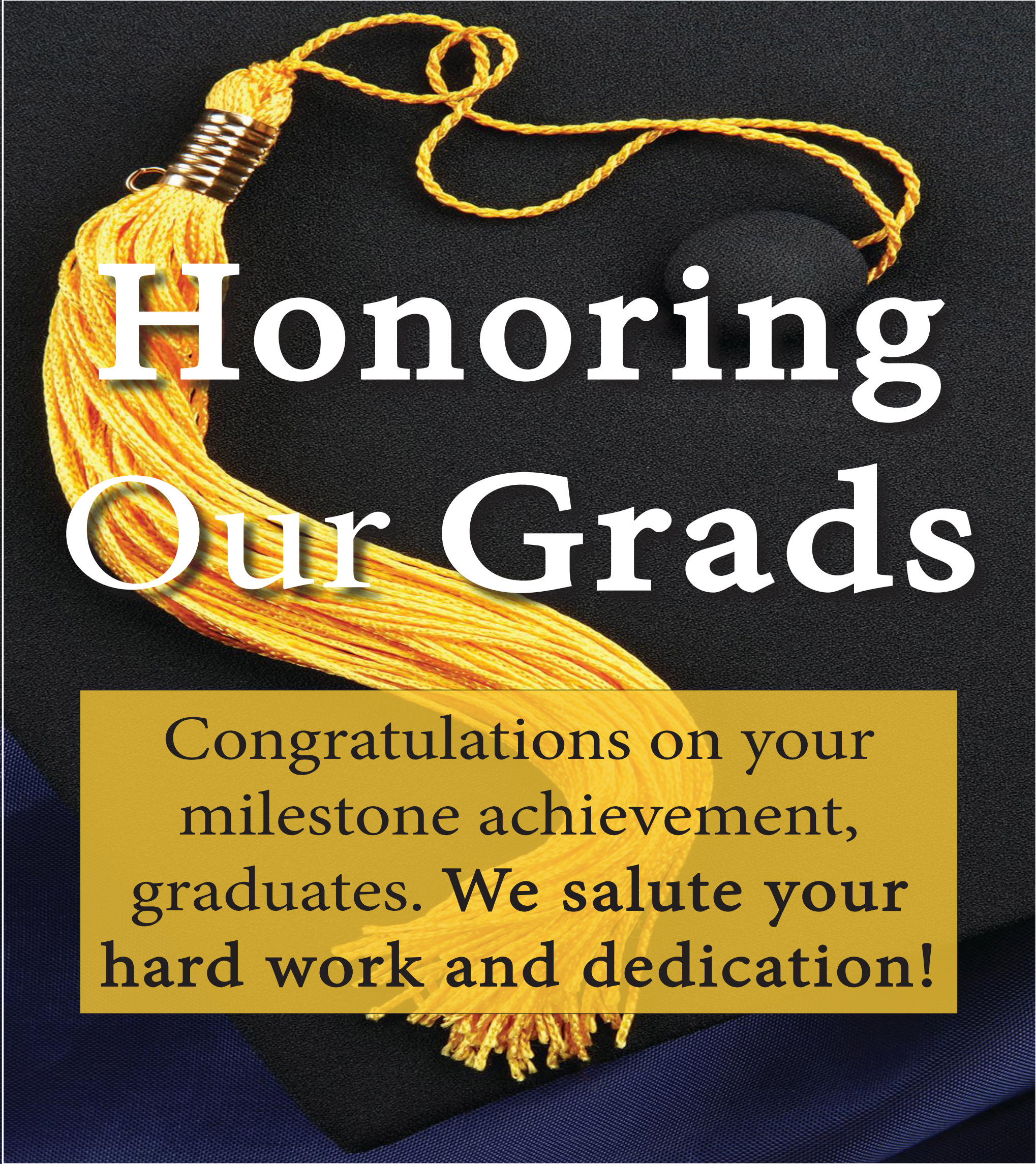
Rebecca K Brink is a 2016 graduate of Concordia University in Austin, Texas. She is the daughter of Dennis Tune, granddaughter of Janice (Sealy) Tune, great-granddaughter of Willy Sealy, original enrollee on the Dawes roll, and great-great-granddaughter of Dave Sealy. She received her master's of education degree in sports administration, and is extremely grateful for the support she received from the Chickasaw Nation Higher Education Department and Scholarship Program. The opportunity to pursue her master's degree as a mother of two, working full time, and the wife of an active duty U.S. Army soldier was a great challenge, but worth every moment. The financial support allowed her family to see her work toward and succeed in a goal she set, while allowing her family to continue to fund their children's education. Her daughters, Elizabeth, 10, and Paige, 8, were both proud of her accomplishments, and also pleased to see it coming to completion. The process and experience opened doors of conversation regarding their future, goal setting, saving money, applying for scholarships, working hard, and the amazing privilege they have to be a part of the Chickasaw Nation.



A photograph of two graduates in red gowns and caps. One graduate is hugging the other from behind. The image is partially obscured by a black banner at the top and bottom containing text.

Embrace the Moment

Congratulations

A close-up photograph of a yellow graduation tassel attached to a black mortarboard cap. The tassel is coiled and draped over the cap. The background is dark and textured.

Honoring Our Grads

Congratulations on your milestone achievement, graduates. We salute your hard work and dedication!